

Florida

SOUTH FLORIDA FISHING
FACTS ABOUT FISHING

Fishing • Hunting
• Conservation •

WILDLIFE

AUGUST, 1961

The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen

25 CENTS



FOR THAT
BIG ONE
THAT
DIDN'T
GET AWAY



FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE _____ Date _____
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

Name (please print) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Species _____ Weight _____ Length _____

Type of Tackle _____

Bait or Lure Used _____

Where Caught _____ in _____ County

Date Caught _____ Catch Witnessed By _____

Registered, Weighed By _____ At _____

(Signature of Applicant)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS

.....8 pounds or larger

CHAIN PICKEREL

.....4 pounds or larger

BLUEGILL (BREAM)

.....1 1/2 pounds or larger

SHELLCRACKER

.....2 pounds or larger

BLACK CRAPPIE

.....2 pounds or larger

RED BREAST

.....1 pound or larger

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK

★

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FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
Tallahassee, Florida

★

Dedicated to the
Conservation, Restoration, and Protection of Our Game and Fish

★

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ROSE



TALLAHASSEE

Crusade Against Illegal Fishing Practices Launched

THE GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH Commission has launched an all out crusade to rid the rivers of Northwest Florida of illegal fishing devices, according to Matt Whisenhunt, regional manager for the Commission in Northwest Florida.

Whisenhunt said, "The major problem lies in the Apalachicola River where recent checks have found many illegal fishing baskets and other devices."

A County Court Jury of Calhoun County recently found one person guilty of operating illegal fishing devices and County Judge Sidney Parrish levied fines amounting to \$300.00 on him. Wildlife Officers Fred Wheeler and Carl Culbreth apprehended the man violating the law by setting wire traps in the Apalachicola River. The officers confiscated some 25 fishing baskets from this one case.

Charges were recently filed against persons at certain fish camps on the Apalachicola River for the selling of game fish. These cases are pending court action in Liberty County.

"Sportsmen should consider it their duty to report such violations as illegal fishing devices in the rivers, or the selling of game fish, to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. ALL the fish in the rivers and lakes of Florida belong to ALL the people of Florida and not to a very few who would use our game fish for personal gain," Whisenhunt said. ●

Keep America Beautiful

Keep America Beautiful, Inc. reports that \$50 million in tax funds are spent each year to clean litter from primary highways. The U. S. Forest Service budgeted \$3 million last year for cleaning up national forests. Litter-caused fires amount to \$70 million annually. And, human losses are also great—between 750 and 1,000 Americans are killed and 100,000 seriously injured annually as a result of cars striking or swerving to avoid hitting articles thrown on the road.

Industrial Wastes Kill Off Fish

MORE FISH ARE REPORTED killed by industrial wastes than by other pollutants, according to a report of

Alligator Protection Sought By Advisory Council

A RECOMMENDATION to protect alligators in Northwest Florida has been received by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission from the Northwest Regional Conservation Advisory Council. According to the Council, the alligator population is very low and alligators are needed to curb the invasion of nutria into the region.

Nutria, which are now appearing in Northwest Florida, are large South American rodents that weigh up to 25 pounds. They are very detrimental to marsh areas and agricultural crops. Authorities have stated that nutria can leave land as bare as a forest fire.

Texas and Louisiana have had a problem with this fast reproducing rodent for the past few years and in places, they have completely ruined excellent hunting and fishing areas in these states.

The Council learned that large alligators are the natural enemies of nutria and are being used by Texas and Louisiana as a biological control over these vegetation eating rodents.

The protection of alligators in Northwest Florida is expected to provide a barrier or at least an impediment to the spread of these harmful rodents.

The Northwest Regional Conservation Advisory Council was organized in 1960 and is composed of responsible citizens of Northwest Florida that are interested in the furthering of conservation. ●

the Public Health Service's Division of Water Supply and Pollution Control.

Figures contained in the first summary report of the cooperative Federal-State fish-kill project showed that in the first seven months, June through December 1960, a total of 286 reports were received from 36 States showing a total of 6,300,000 fish killed.

Agricultural poisons accounted for the second highest number of fish-kill reports, though they were in fifth place in total number of fish killed.

The total river mileage affected was 1153 miles, in addition to 51 miles of lake and bay shore lines and 1407 acres of lakes, reservoirs and bays.

Of the 305 reports on source of kills (many reported more than one source) industrial wastes were reported in 98 instances, with a total of 5,460,000 fish killed; agricultural poisons were reported in 81 instances, with a total of 73,000 fish killed; unknown sources were reported 51 times with a total of 190,000 fish killed; "other" sources were listed in 38 reports with a total of 38,000 fish killed; domestic sewage was fifth with 27 reports, with 287,000 fish killed, and mining operations were reported 10 times with a total of 250,000 fish killed.

One kill traced to industrial wastes was estimated at 5,000,000. This was in 19 miles of the Kanawha River for about two days late in August, 1960, caused by a spill of methyl alcohol. Even after subtracting this 5,000,000 figure, the number of fish killed by industrial wastes is nearly double the next named source of total number of fish kills, domestic wastes. ●

THE COVER

The summer fishing season—now enjoyed by millions throughout the state, from Pensacola to Key West. For Facts About Florida Fishing, see Page-22. The first of a three part report on Southeast Florida Fishing starts on Page-11

Cover Photo By Florida State News Bureau

Clubs and Conservation

AT LIVE OAK, SUWANNEE County Sheriff Hugh Lewis has organized a Boys Junior Rifle School for boys 10 through 15 years of age. Like most people who have started such a program, Lewis found a lot of people ready to pitch in and help.

A recent article in the Florida Times-Union of Jacksonville stated that a rock company had given the sheriff permission to use four acres of land near the city, that other donors gave logs, targets and even cartridges and that the range was ready for use a month after the plan was introduced.

The Live Oak setup permits five persons to shoot at one time and a 10-foot-high log barricade, backed up by sand, provides a safe background for targets. Twenty-two calibre rifles will be used. The annual cost figured for operation of the school—\$50.

One of the things that makes such programs of special interest to law enforcement bodies is that gun safety education is usually a part of the training program and that a supervised target range takes a lot of pressure off mailboxes, street lights and highway signs as well as some ambulatory targets.

As a community program, youth marksmanship usually gets plenty of sport, largely because gun lovers are nearly always anxious to make converts to their sport and the safety record of supervised ranges is just about perfect.

Another recent development in gun safety for Florida is the production of a series of four gun safety programs produced for the Dade County educational TV station through the cooperation of the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission. Several organizations devoted to the promotion of shooting as a sport have cooperated in producing the taped shows, which are to be made available for viewing elsewhere.

The Florida gun safety program is under the direction of Jim Reed, information extension officer of the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission at Ocala. Reed acts as a field representative of the National Rifle Association. Until June 1, the gun safety program was carried on from an office at 112 West Indiana, DeLand, Fla.

Outboarders Flex Muscles

Outboard motorboat operators are beginning to make themselves heard in a lot of places these days. Legislators in Florida as well as in other states are hearing more and more from the boatmen—and the number of outboarders now operating is beginning to be realized. The reason for this is that they are getting organized.

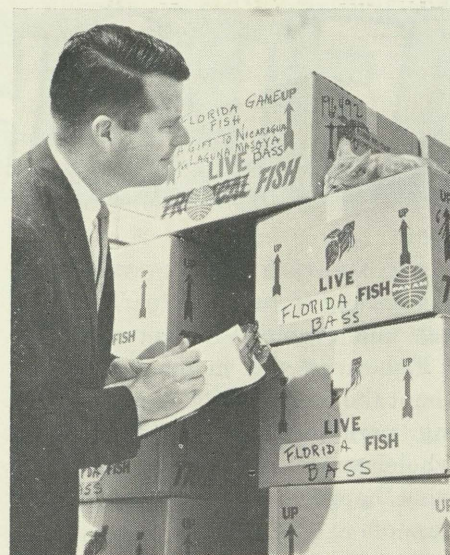
Florida's federation of boating clubs, a relatively new organization has made rapid strides in membership although some of its objectives will be hard to secure.

The Outboard Boating Club of America recently named the Heart Of America Boat Club of Kansas City, Mo., as the "Outboard Boating Club of the Year, 1960."

Although the Kansas City club has been active since 1952 and has participated in numerous worthwhile projects, it was an all-out battle against pollution in the Missouri River that did much to earn them the pennant.

The "Muddy Mo" has little prospect of ever being crystal clear but the constant dumping of refuse and the emptying of open sewers into the big river may be stopped as the result of passage of a "Sewer Revenue Bonds Proposition" last year. It is a \$75 million bond issue.

The outboarders had known how dirty the river was for a long time. It was so dirty that the Kansas City folks built their clubhouse on Lake of the Ozarks, 150 miles by highway southeast of the city. Officers of the



Manifested as a gift to the Nicaraguan people to stock Laguna Masaya near Managua, the capital city, 900 large-mouth bass from hatcheries of the Florida Game and Fresh-water Fish Commission left Miami by Pan American jetliner. But, to "Jetball," Pan Am cargo hangar pet, it was just 600 pounds of catfood. Donald M. Barrett checked out the shipment for the airline's Latin American Division Executive Vice President Wilbur L. Morrison, an ardent fisherman, who made arrangements for the Commission's gift.

outboard club were in on the ground floor when the first pollution hearings were held. The U.S. Public Health Service was taking a hand in 1957 and the club's commodore testified at those conferences.

To support the bond issue for river cleanup, HABC carried out its own volunteer campaign. They issued a firm resolution backing the bonds and then set up a telephone committee which made some 1,500 calls to key people. Then the public was invited to a special club meeting on the subject, the club staged an anti-pollution cruise and as election day approached, the members delivered information pamphlets from door to door with the help of local Boy Scouts. The League of Women Voters and the Chamber of Commerce provided the materials.

So now they're going to clean up the Missouri and maybe the Kansas City folks can bring their boats back home. ●

FISHING



BY
CHARLES
WATERMAN

HOT WEATHER MEANS THAT bass fishing is better in early morning, late evening—and at night.

Fishermen are inclined to agree about the morning and evening feeding periods but they remain in wholehearted disagreement about what happens when the night shift goes on.

One old-timer will look you squarely in the eye and say that “when the moon comes up the fish go down” and you might as well go home. Another will painstakingly explain to you that daytime fishing during the full moon period is a waste of time because the fish “feed all night by moonlight.”

It has been my experience that fishing is seldom very good during the first couple of hours after nightfall—moon or no moon. Generally there is a flurry of activity just at dusk which stops shortly afterward. I think most disappointed night fishermen give up after a few tries during the early part of the night. Things get pretty sleepy for most of us around midnight.

The fact remains that night feeding periods may occur after the weak-willed angler has given up. If you want to find out the score—stay out all night. I’m pretty safe in betting you won’t do it.

I have had them stop hitting when the moon came up. I have also had them stop hitting when it went down. I am convinced the moon has an effect but that effect is not constant. It’s like a rainstorm. Just before a rain, you’ll sometimes find fish tearing up everything in sight. Sometimes the approach of rain puts them down.

Generally, the night fisherman uses noisy surface lures. Traditionally, the favorite night casting lure in Florida is the Jitterbug, a gurgling clown that is usually retrieved fair-

ly steadily. The favorite color is black, the theory being that black is most easily seen against the lighter sky. Deep-fished nighttime baits are generally preferred in the darker colors, too.

The “jigger-bobbing” rig (a big lure operated with a cane pole and short line) is popular for use at night. It has the advantage of being in the water all of the time and the fisherman doesn’t have to worry about tangles or backlashes.

I don’t know much about shiner fishing at night. It’s done but isn’t a common practice.

Although I’ve often read that spinning gear is best of all for night fishing, I’m a little skeptical. If you DO get a tangle with spinning line at night, it will be a real prize-winner and a fish knife is the accepted tool for straightening it out. Baitcasting tackle is almost as bad unless you put a little extra tension on the spool to avoid backlashes. Most baitcasters thumb partly by sight as their lure descends. Turn out the lights and some of them will produce awesome overruns. I frequently do.

Probably the best bass fishing reel for night fishing is the “spin-cast” or enclosed spinning reel with thumbing device. If it’s working right, nothing much can go wrong and although it may lack some of the accuracy of the other methods, most night fishermen don’t fish close to obstacles.

The use of lights in a night-fishing boat is a frequent subject of pitched verbal battles. I prefer not to let such a light shine on the water but I have little proof one way or the other. I generally keep a small flashlight at hand to change lures, find out what is biting me and untangle things with as little illumination of the surrounding waters as possible. One guy I know turns

out his auto lights half a mile from where he keeps his boat. That seems a bit ultra-conservative.

I don’t like to wade at night but I have no particular reason except that the operation is a bit complicated what with the light to manage and the occasional weird tangles.

Fly fishing is no trouble at night if you work the same length of line all the time. Nevertheless, I prefer a shorter rod when it gets dark.

There is one situation that calls for night fishing and nothing else. That’s a crowded resort lake with speedboats and water skiers on duty all day long. It is only during the wee sma’ hours that hardy angler types fare forth in peace and that’s when they catch their fish. Comes the dawn and with it come speedboats and a few harried souls who try to fish despite these noisy handicaps. Many a fishless vacationing family has gone home from a busy lake unsuspecting that big bass were being caught while they slept. This is the real stronghold of the night fisherman.

Field & Stream Winners

Although there are a lot of flat statements made in the tackle emporiums and barber shops, the annual Field & Stream contest is a pretty good indication of where big fish are actually being caught.

As most anglers know, the contest has been running for many a year and has acquired such stature that it is very nearly an “official” record of big fish. I find it mighty informative and some of the trends that show up there come as a surprise.

For example, I spend more time than I should fishing for snook on the lower west coast and although I stoutly maintain that the Ten Thousand Island area is the best year-around snook fishing on the

Florida map, I read year after year how they catch the prize-winners on the other side of the state. Lake Worth has long been known as the residence of lunker snook during the warm months, even though it has suffered somewhat from shoreline development.

The 1960 champ was a 43-pound, 7-ounce fish caught from Boynton Beach Inlet and all of the other ten leaders came from the east coast with Lake Worth showing up frequently as usual. How many came from my favorite stomping ground? Just none at all, friend—just none at all.

Although most of the tarpon winners came from the Florida Keys, the top fish was a 179-pounder out of Boca Grande Pass and there was one winner from Louisiana.

While the west coasters continue to catch plenty of spotted weakfish or "trout," all of the winners, as usual, came from the east coast, the biggest being a 13-pound, 7-ouncer from Titusville. All of the other winners came from the same neck of the woods, being divided among Cocoa, Canaveral Harbor, Melbourne and Jensen Beach.

Even though the Florida winners in various classifications are discouragingly concentrated, it ain't as bad as the situation with some "foreign" kinds of fish.

Now you take the rainbow trout fly casting division. All of the first ten except the first place winner came from Duck Lake, Montana, which contains the coldest unfrozen water in the world. I have fished there but was never warm enough to cast very well. My line kept freezing. Duck Lake is located where a chilly finger of Canada points right down into the U.S.

The first place winner in that class weighed 13 pounds, 12-ounces and was caught in Bennett Spring State Park in Missouri. I have fished there, too, but it was 20 years ago and I would have settled for a 13-ounce fish as the fishermen were crowded elbow to elbow that day.

It is impossible to get away from the Field & Stream contest dope



Night fishing sometimes produces lunker bass but there's a lot to it besides staying awake.

without mentioning Brick Owens, who continues to catch prize-winning black bass in central Florida. I note he cleaned the field in the spinning division with a fish that weighed 14 pounds, 15 ounces. Winning fishing contests is routine with Owens. The state should pay him a retainer just for the publicity we get out of him. He is an example of a real fishing specialist and luck plays a mighty small part in his operation.

"Stuffed" Fish

Probably there is no workman in the world who receives as much amateur criticism as the taxidermist. Remember the old poem about the owl who listened to a lot of criticism about how he had been stuffed and then flew away?

In mounting fish, the taxidermist must please people who have widely divergent ideas about what the fish looked like in the first place. For example, the colors of black bass caught right here in Florida may range from mottled silver with dark back to a definite green or a dark, muddy brown. Some of them are bronze, although the term "bronze-back" was first applied to northern smallmouths.

Anyway, when the finished specimen is delivered, the customer's reaction may range from rapture to profanity. In some cases, he doesn't want the fish the same color it was when caught but has some fanciful idea of what it ought to look like.

There are taxidermists who frankly make a mounted fish look glossy and more colorful than when caught and many of their customers like it that way. It is harder to get a really "natural" look and few are the colors that will stay natural indefinitely.

Now not being much of a critic of mounted fish, I am sometimes startled when a companion vents horror at what has been done to a specimen in a local hotel or restaurant. When I give a second look, I am sometimes inclined to feel that way myself. Of course, some of those mounted fish have been around for a couple of generations. I don't think anyone ever throws one away.

One friend of mine who visited here from the north was a great inspector of taxidermy. When he left he told me it was funny that there were no good taxidermists in Florida. I won't go with that but he probably had seen some odd creatures.

I tried to learn taxidermy once and my specimens were really "stuffed." Sometimes they actually frightened me. However, even with that sketchy background, I like to divide the fish taxidermy into "decorative" taxidermy and "natural taxidermy." Some of the decorative fish seen in Florida are probably more brilliant by far than the originals but they are pleasing to the eye of the non-fisherman. They may be excused on that ground and some of the worst looking specimens are those in which the taxidermist tried to get the colors *exactly* right—and missed.

And while we're on the subject of taxidermists I'd like to say that most of the ones I've known were real characters—and always behind with their work.

One of the wildest ones I know
(Continued on Page 36)

MUZZLE FLASHES



BY
EDMUND
MCLAURIN

UNDOUBTEDLY, AND UNDENIABLY, just plain luck accounts for many deer kills. One man may hunt for weeks without getting a shot; another, hunting in the very same territory, may kill his buck soon after leaving his parked car on his first day out. Deer hunting, no matter how approached, is something of a gamble—with the odds usually favoring the deer.

However, I am strongly convinced that advance preparation tends to balance hunting odds more equally, come hunting season.

Consider that the average deer seen is invariably a moving target, and is usually a clear target for only about three seconds—very seldom more than five seconds—of the time he is in the immediate vicinity of the hunter.

During this short period, a skilled shooter can easily fire one or more killing shots; the man who does his hunting without pre-season gun handling practice, on the other hand, will often see his target disappear

into the brush or over a hill before he can get into action. There's a whale of a difference between the two performances, as any professional guide can tell you.

In deer hunting, fit of the gun used has great influence on the hunter's ability to make fast shots, especially so if his weapon is a shotgun. When shouldered, the shooter's aiming eye, the gun's sights and the target should be in common alignment, without much—if any—conscious effort on the part of the shooter.

The gun itself must come to shoulder almost effortlessly, smoothly, and the butt plate must hit the shoulder at the proper spot and angle, simultaneously with the comb of the stock's contact with the shooter's face.

Given good gun fit, fast, accurate snap-shooting is then only a matter of practice.

For rapid fire courses of range practice, the slide-actions, autoloaders and lever-actions have it all over bolt-actions for fast, successive shots.

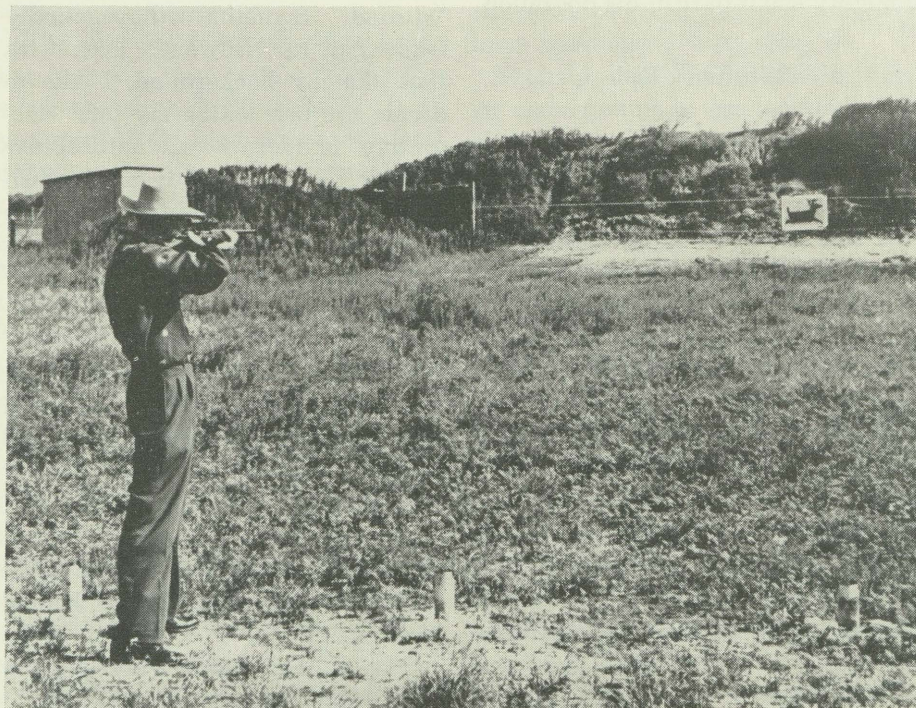
Rifles like the Remington Model 760, Winchester 88, Remington 740, Winchester 94, Marlin 336, Savage 99 and J. C. Higgins Model 45 are especially good for fast placement of first and follow-up shots.

Where shooting conditions permit safe open field practice, a piece of thick, heavy, white cardboard can be wedged in an old automobile tire and rolled down a bumpy hill or across rough ground, to provide practice at a moving target. Such practice can be very educational, for, as in actual deer hunting, you'll either hit or you won't. The results will be immediately obvious.

Most hunters, however, seem to prefer to shoot at a simulated running deer target, judging by the letters that have come to me, and the 'phone calls relative to the subject. Individuals, as well as clubs, want to know how to assemble and operate such a target. They also want to know sources of supply for running deer target figures.

There are various ways of rigging a running deer target—both simple and complex. The former usually embody a target frame and pulley system that roll down an inclined wire as a single working unit, or utilize the applied power of a simple bicycle wheel mechanism. The more complex versions are either electrically operated, or else bounce a four wheel platform car down a bumpy, double-track for 150 feet, starting from an eight foot incline and ending up at the 2 foot level.

If you are interested in assembling a running deer target, for either gun hunting or bowhunting practice, then I suggest you send 50¢ to the



Practice shooting at a running deer target is not only a lot of fun but will boost your chances of bagging a buck.

National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D. C., for its 12-page pink paper, illustrated folder titled "Running Deer Ranges." Several different operating systems, with instructions for assembly, are included in the printing.

As for ready-made deer target figures, you can obtain them, pictured as running either to the left or to the right, from Stoeger Arms Company, 45-18 Court Square, Long Island City, New York. They come in sets—one of each facing style—at \$1.50 per set. Additional single target faces are 50¢ each.

The targets have a very lifelike running deer pose, lithographed in natural colors and marked with kill-area scoring rings of gradually decreasing numerical value, from heart shots to complete misses.

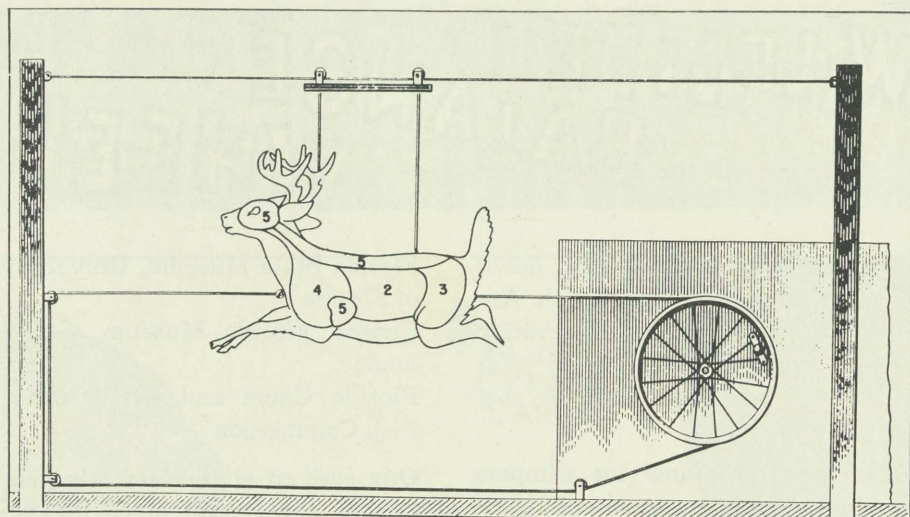
Best results and longer target life will be had by mounting the figure targets on beaver board or on a canvas frame. The targets are size 35x45 inches.

Target pasters—small squares of gummed paper contained in a long, perforated roll—are used to cover bullet holes. They greatly extend the potential useful life of the target faces.

A common fault—one frequently overlooked in the enthusiasm of building a running deer target and anticipation of its use upon completion—is to erect the range so that the target runs across an obstruction-free area, visible at all times to the shooter and running approximately the same speed, once underway.

After only a few sessions of range practice, the average shooter will quickly learn the necessary lead and receive practically no challenge thereafter from making shots along the target's known course of travel.

It is usually an entirely different story, however, when two direction running targets are used. Some shooters find they can easily hit a deer silhouette running in one direction but not when the course of fire calls for two-way shooting. (In the woods, wild deer don't habitually



A simple diagram of a manually-operated running deer target mechanism, easy and inexpensive to make.

run in just one direction or on a fixed angle course!)

How much lead does one give a running deer target, when using a big-game rifle? Assuming that target speed is approximately 22½ feet per second, and the range either 100 yards or 100 metres, most of the Olympic shooters using single post front sights place the appropriate corner of the post, depending on the deer target's direction of movement, on the nape of the animal's neck, with the top of the front sight level with the animal's backbone. Resultant bullet impact is usually in a killing area and some ten inches to one side of point of aim at moment of firing.

Practical practice range setups are those that cause the deer target to appear briefly in clear areas between shot-deflecting obstructions, run on a bumpy, erratic course, and vary in speed from one "run" to another.

Some clubs even use auxiliary figures of a running man, which the range operator may substitute at will, to test the hunting safety reaction factor of individual shooters.

In brief, if the man-figure should appear without warning you would not shoot. Conversely, under some agreed upon scoring system, you could be penalized, or razed by companions, if you made the impulsive mistake of shooting at the suddenly appearing running man instead of the expected deer figure.

Running deer target practice and tournament competition have long been popular in Europe, and especially so in the Scandinavian countries, as well as a phase of the Olympics.

In this country, however, the sport, and the connected value of such practice as preparation for big-game hunting, has been largely overlooked. A few of the National and Regional rifle tournaments have regularly included running deer target shooting as part of their programs, and some clubs already have such range setups, but the majority of U. S. shooting clubs do not as yet have running deer target ranges.

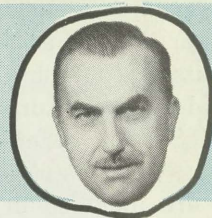
Local clubs that now operate or plan to put in running deer target ranges can do big-game hunting sportsmen a real favor by publicizing the availability of such practice, and at the same time make a little extra club money by periodically staging running deer competitive shoots, open to all and strictly supervised by range-trained club members.

As matters now stand, the majority of deer hunters have few opportunities to practice on moving targets with their big-game rifles between hunting seasons. Many also need expert assistance in properly sighting-in their rifles, to obtain the most practical bullet trajectory over average hunting ranges.

The special Sighting-in Days ob-

(Continued on Page 37)

WILDLIFE BALANCE WHEEL



BY
DENVER
STE. CLAIRE

AUGUST 5, WILL SEE US ring down the curtain on the Tenth Anniversary of the Youth Conservation Camp. Its been a wonderful year and a very successful camping season.

The new programs for campers this season were accepted enthusiastically by all who participated. Each day was designated with a central theme in Conservation such as soil, water, forests, and wildlife. On the final day a general review of these resources was discussed by the instructors and campers. Incorporated into the program was the Exposition of the various resource agencies both state and federal.

Thirteen of these agencies installed instructional exhibits June 1 to further aid the proper concepts of Conservation.

I know I speak for the staff and the Game Commission when I say we were deeply moved and pleased with the sincere cooperation extended by all agencies participating in the First Annual Exposition at camp.

For the benefit of those who did not have the opportunity to view these exhibits at camp, may we list the exhibitors who helped make our efforts successful.

U. S. Forest Service
Forestry Extension Service, U.S.
Dept. of Agriculture
Soil and Water Conservation Service, U.S. Dept. of Ag.
U. S. Geological Survey
Florida Forest Service
Florida State Board of Conservation
Florida Park Service
Central & Southern Florida Flood Control District
School of Forestry, University of Florida
Rangers School, University of Florida

Florida State Museum, University of Florida

Central Florida Museum of Orlando

Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

Our staff of counselors this year has been the largest since the beginning ten years ago. A total of 25 served the campers' eight weeks with fun, laughter and an abundance of enthusiasm.

Camp Counselors

I take time here to list our staff and to pay tribute to a group of men and women who gave of themselves more than was required.

My thanks and those of the Game Commission are extended to these loyal and wonderful people:

Gordon Kreible, Director; Richard Paine, Assistant Director; Bula Hewitt, Dietitian; George Neilson, Waterfront Director; Annie Lee Doudy, Second Cook; Louise Holman, Third Cook; Mable Miller, Counselor; Carrie Glidewell, Counselor; Lynn Herbert, Counselor; Joyce Henderson, Counselor; Peggy Farari, Counselor; Judy Swett, Counselor; Julie Hays, Counselor; Sandra Huber, Counselor; Daphne Evans, Counselor; John Street, Counselor; Charles Wilson, Counselor; Duane French, Counselor; Ray Anderson, Counselor; Manual Cepeda, Counselor; Frank Mustin, Counselor; Virginia Gill, Registered Nurse; George Miller, Utility.

* * * * *

Special Message

In the mail recently we received a newsletter from the American Camping Association. Within its contents appeared a copy of the final part of an inspirational program at the close of the Region IV Conven-

tion in Gatlinburg, Tennessee this past March. I am certain you will think about this long after you have read it. Here it is.

These Things We Believe

We believe in boys and girls, not some of them but all of them.

****We believe in their right to an understanding of their own place in the nature community of which they are a part.****

We believe in their right to acquire skills and the tools for living in the out-of-doors as part of their heritage as descendants of pioneers, to swim, to fish, to manage a canoe, to climb, to build, to cook, to worship.

****We believe in their right of discovery and adventure in nature's world, their right to pit their strength against the barriers nature erects and the mysteries she presents and in their right to a sense of achievement.

****We believe in their right to fun, and to a creative expression of themselves in handicrafts, in music and in drama.

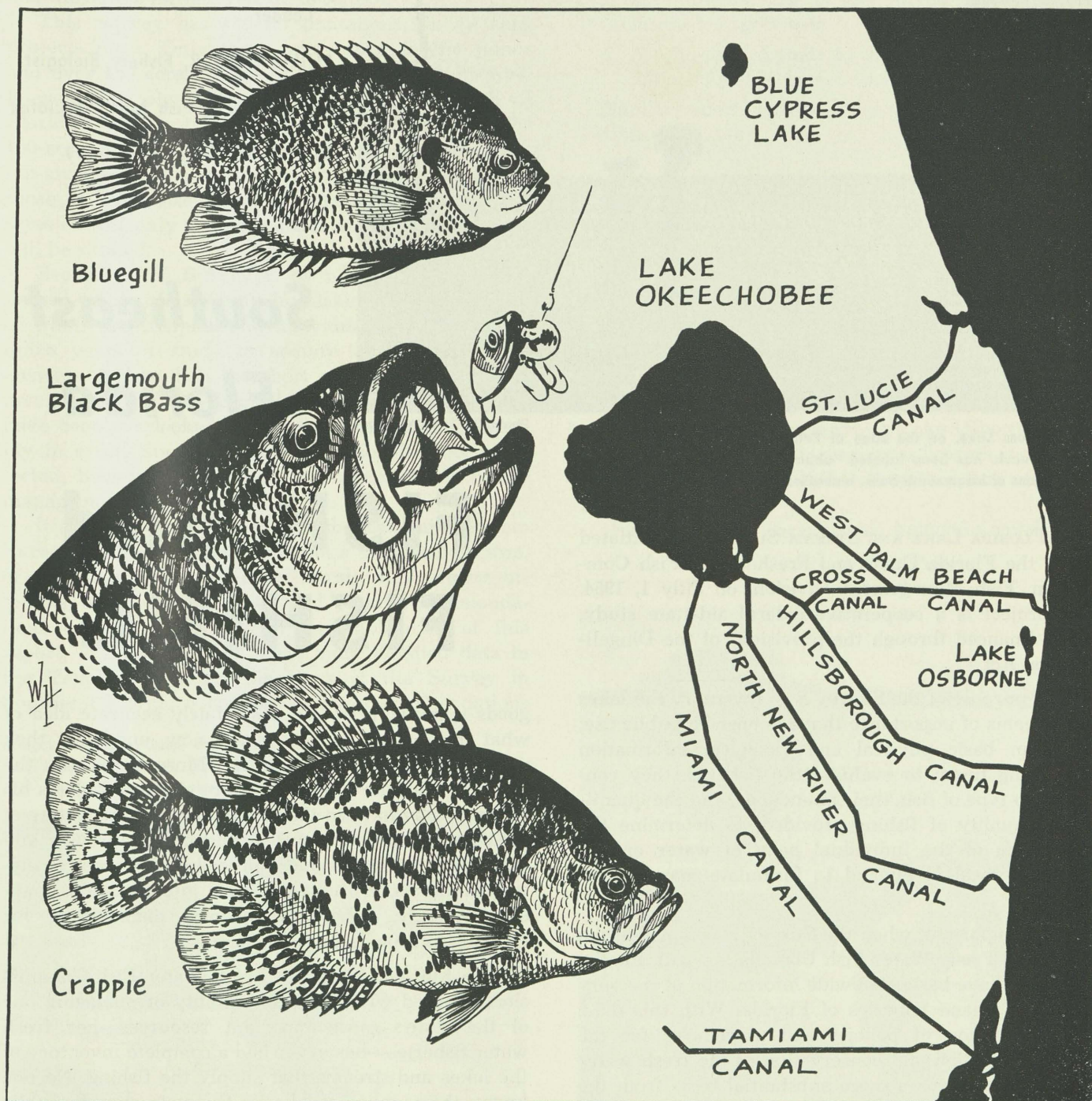
****We believe in their right to friendly comradeship with someone older, likewise an adventure in the out-of-doors.****

We believe in their need of the healing found in the wild, wide and open spaces. We believe in their unfolding response to the warm earth, the friendly stars, the music of streams, the unknown life in the hidden places, great trees, sunsets and storms.

****We believe that all these are pathways for the, and for us, to God, and that their language is universal.

By the way, the American Camping Association is interested in the idea of creating a Family Camping Federation. ●

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA FISH AND FISHING



By Lake and Stream Survey Team No. 2

A Survey Report by Federal Aid Project F-6-R, A Dingell-Johnson Project
Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
Fisheries Division



Blue Cypress Lake, on the edge of Fellsmere Marsh 28 miles west of Vero Beach, has been labeled "abundant" as to existing populations of largemouth bass, bluegills, and speckled perch.

Photo By Tom Wayman

A Report By
Lake and Stream Survey
Team No. 2

KEITH BYRD, Project Leader

FRANK ARRANDALE, Ass't. Proj.
Leader

PHILIP HESTER, Fishery Biologist

GENE SMITH, Fish Mgt. Specialist

RUTH LEE, Project Secretary

Southeast Florida

FISH and FISHING

THE FLORIDA LAKE AND STREAM Survey was initiated by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Fish Management Division, on July 1, 1954. This project is a cooperative federal aid-state study, and is financed through the provisions of the Dingell-Johnson Act.

The purpose of the Survey is to inventory the lakes and streams of importance that are open to public use; to obtain basic physical and biological information concerning them; to evaluate the fisheries they contain as to type of fish, their abundance, and the quantity and quality of fishing provided; to determine the importance of the individual body of water on the state and local level; and to formulate management plans.

Most important, when the Survey is completed, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will, for the first time, have basic statewide information of the very important inland fisheries of Florida. With this data, the formulation of policies and procedures for the proper utilization and conservation of the fresh water fisheries may have a more substantial basis from the standpoint of long range and statewide fishery management.

The need for the Survey is clear. Any business manager of any company has at his fingertips an annual or even monthly inventory of what stocks or materials his plant has on hand. He knows what his production figures are, including the last piece of

goods manufactured. He has a fairly accurate idea of what the market conditions are now, and what they will probably be in the future. More important, the business manager is keenly aware of any problems his business may have in the production and marketing of the company product, and is constantly improving and expanding his management procedures to meet changing conditions. Without the basic information to manage correctly, either the business manager or his company is soon defunct.

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, charged with the responsibility of managing one of the state's most important resources—her fresh water fisheries—has never had a complete inventory of the lakes and streams that supply the fishing. No one knows the number of lakes in the state open to public fishing, much less the amount and kinds of fish pre-

PART I LAKE OSBORNE BLUE CYPRESS LAKE

sent, or the production, or fishing pressure. Due to a lack of funds, and numerous and important immediate problems that had to be resolved, such fact gathering had to be delayed until the present. It is hoped that the information gained from this Survey will assist the administrators and technicians so that Florida may continue to provide top-notch fishing for her residents and the nation for many years to come.

This Survey has several limitations, as all such projects must. Only those lakes open to the public and over 150 acres in size will normally be surveyed. It would be obviously impossible to include all of Florida's lakes in the time allocated to the study. The 150-acre limitation was used because generally, but not always, lakes over this size are public waters while those of lesser size frequently are not. For much the same reason, only the more important and larger rivers will be studied.

Secondly, the Survey is by no means a comprehensive study of any individual lake or stream. Bodies of water are complex and individual units which require years of study to acquire all the facts and answers, rather than the short periods that they are investigated by this project. Some information may have been overlooked, and some of the findings possibly in error. Enough basic information has been collected, however, to provide the blueprint for future management.

It should be emphasized that the Lake and Stream Survey is a research unit, and not a management arm, of the Commission. In other words, this project attempts to obtain the facts, and make recommendations based on them. With the publication of this report, and the filing of much more detailed data in the Tallahassee office, the work of the Survey in Southeast Florida is completed. The recommendations

Project biologists Gene Smith, left, and Frank Arrandale record special species data to determine overall fishing conditions for the Lake and Stream Survey report.



contained herein will be considered and put into effect, as time and funds permit, by other branches of the Fisheries Division.

About This Report

This report is designed to provide:

1. A capsule summary of the Survey findings in this area for the use of Commission members and interested sportsmen.
2. A semi-official guide to the fishing and accommodations for fishermen in the area surveyed.

Similar reports will be published about the fish and fishing in other areas as the Survey progresses.

LAKE OSBORNE

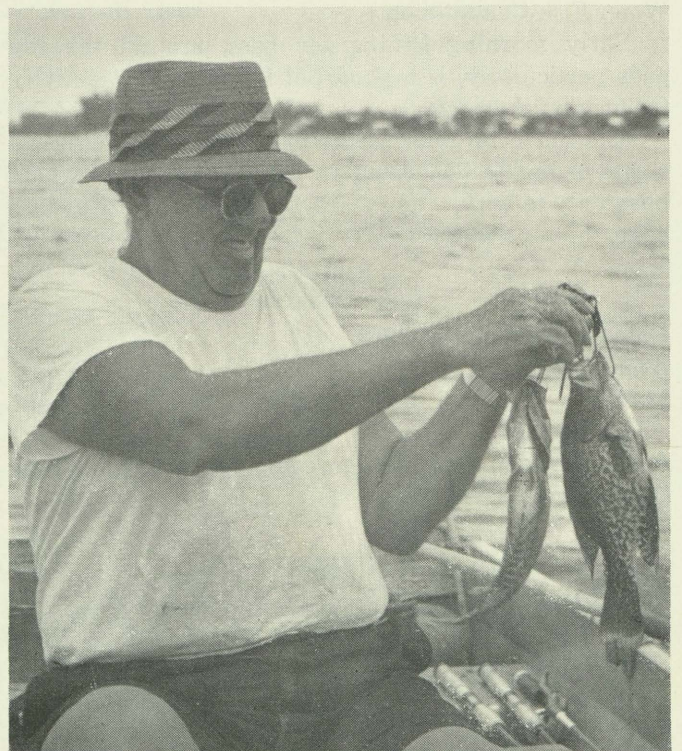
THE WELL-DEVELOPED PARK facilities, residential areas, and shoreline roads around Lake Osborne, have made it a very popular water recreation lake especially attractive to week-end boating and picnicking parties.

Located in Palm Beach County, near the city of Lake Worth, this lake offers some fine fishing which is being taken advantage of by a limited number of fishermen.

The slack fishing pressure on Lake Osborne is due, in most likelihood, to the numerous boaters and water-skiers using the lake rather than to a lack of fish to be caught.

Findings of the survey team indicate a good popu-

(Continued on Next Page)



Photos By Tom Wayman

Lake Worth angler George R. Davis holds up a pair of speckled perch (Crappie) landed while fishing on Lake Osborne.



Photo By Tom Wayman

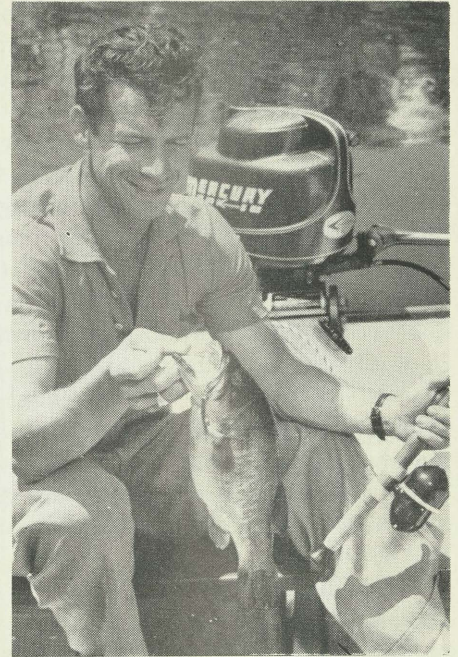


Photo By Bill Hansen

Lake Osborne, located in Palm Beach County, is well stocked with largemouth bass, bluegills, and shellcracker. Early morning fishing around the lily pads appears to be a best bet for bass fishermen.

Bass fishing in lakes Osborne and Blue Cypress is rated as good all year round.

(Continued from Preceding Page)

lation of largemouth black bass, shellcracker, and especially bluegill, with the only population concern being aroused by the presence of gizzard shad. (This situation is currently being investigated further by the Fisheries Division of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.)

Early morning fishing for bass, around the lily pads particularly, is a good bet for some fast activity for tackle fishermen.

The old cane pole seems to be the continuing favorite of bream fishermen on the lake, many of whom have only to walk a few yards from doorstep to water's edge.

Lake Osborne

Date of Survey: May, 1960.

Area: 275 acres.

Location: East central Palm Beach County at Lake Worth.

Aquatic Vegetation: Maiden cane, cattails, water hyacinth, yellow water lily.

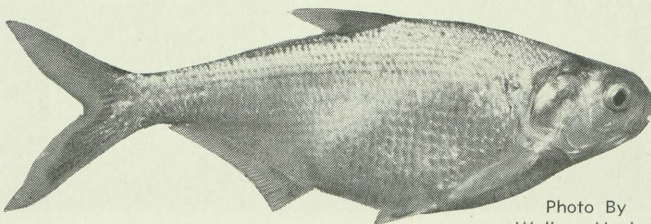


Photo By
Wallace Hughes

The gizzard shad population in Lake Osborne is such that the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is conducting further studies to determine proper management control.

Bottom Type: Muck.

Average Depth: Seven to nine feet.

Accessibility and Availability: Excellent. Four county parks, each with a boat ramp, provide abundant picnic tables, charcoal pits, disposal facilities, etc.

Fishing History: Good.

Fishing Methods: Bream are caught usually by cane pole method, with worms and crickets for bait; also by fly or spinning method using artificial flies.

Bass are caught on live minnows and a variety of artificial lures, a favorite of which seems to be the plastic worms of current popularity.

Recommendations: Lake Osborne has excellent potential as a long-range fishing lake for area residents. It has been recommended for adequate fish management practices when at any time in the future such practices seem necessary.

Game Fishes

Common Name	Relative Abundance
Largemouth Black Bass	Abundant
Bluegill	Abundant
Warmouth	Occasional
Spotted Sunfish (Stumpknocker)	Occasional
Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker)	Common

Other Fishes

Common Name	Relative Abundance
Channel Cat	Occasional
Brown Bullhead (Speckled Cat)	Occasional
Gizzard Shad	Abundant
Spotted Gar	Occasional
Eastern Chubsucker	Occasional

BLUE CYPRESS LAKE

FISHING IN BLUE CYPRESS Lake has been variously described as unpredictable, challenging, and even mysterious—but always enjoyable.

Situated 28 miles west of Vero Beach, on the verge of vast Fellsmere Marsh, the lake supports a typical south Florida fish population: largemouth black bass, the panfishes, and various non-game species commonly found in the waters of this region.

The "mystery" of Blue Cypress apparently stems from the inability of even seasoned local fishermen to consistently boat their favorite fish.

The known "spots" for speckled perch, for example, often yield nothing one day and nice catches the next.

Diligent and skilled bass fishermen, however, seldom fail to take a share of largemouth sufficient to bear out the widely known reputation of Blue Cypress as a fine place to go pluggin'!

The southern, northwestern, and northern shores are mentioned often as the best bass fishing areas of the lake while the deeper, cooler waters near the center and eastward are most likely to hold the concentrations of speckled perch.

Accessible by a single dirt road, which swings northward to the lake off Florida State Road 60 from Vero Beach, Blue Cypress is a prototyped wilderness lake and well worth placing on one's list of places to go whether to fish or just to have a long look at a relatively unspoiled segment of Florida's shrinking backyard wilderness.

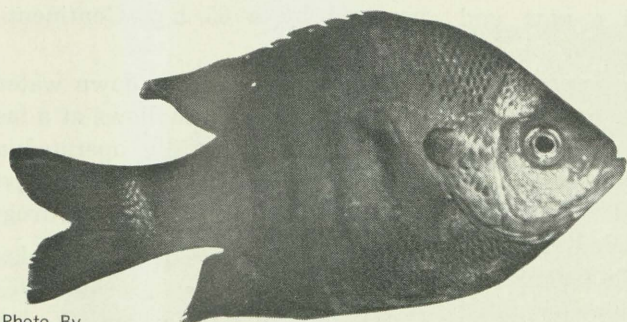


Photo By
Wallace Hughes

BLUEGILL (Bream)

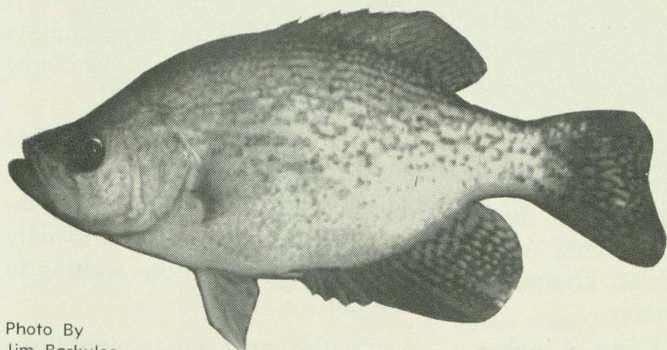


Photo By
Jim Barkuloo

BLACK CRAPPIE (Speckled Perch)

Blue Cypress Lake

Date of Survey: May, 1960

Location: West of Vero Beach, Florida, in Indian River County.

Area: 5,660 acres.

Aquatic Vegetation: Water hyacinth, yellow water lily, cut-grass, needlerush.

Bottom Type: Sand, silt, and muck.

Depth: Maximum 14 feet.

Fluctuation: Dependent upon seasonal precipitation.

Accessibility and Availability: Access only fair over four-mile dirt road from State Road 60 to the lake; poor in rainy weather.

Single fishing camp makes three guest rental units, fourteen rental boats, and seven rental motors available at nominal fees.

Concrete public boat ramp available to private boat owners at no charge; five sheltered picnic tables and camping area also available.

Fishing History: Very good.

Fishing Method: Speckled perch, bluegill, shellcrackers, and warmouth all caught year round on light tackle and cane poles, using live minnows and worms. Bass take artificial bait, usually by casting method, year round.

Recommendations: That the dirt road from State Road 60 to Don's Fish Camp on the Lake be adequately repaired and maintained by Indian River County.

Game Fishes

Common Name	Relative Abundance
Largemouth Bass	Abundant
Bluegill	Abundant
Black Crappie (Speckled Perch)	Abundant
Warmouth	Common
Shellcracker (Redear Sunfish)	Common
Redbreast	Common
Redfin Pickerel (Pike, Jackfish)	Occasional
Stumpknocker (Spotted Sunfish)	Common

Other Fishes

Common Name	Relative Abundance
Gizzard Shad	Abundant
Northern Needlefish	Occasional
Florida Spotted Gar	Occasional
Eastern Chubsucker (Sucker)	Occasional
Southeastern Golden Shiner	Common
Southern Brown Bullhead	
(Speckled Cat)	Occasional
American Eel	Occasional
Bowfin (Mudfish)	Common
White Cat	Occasional
Yellow Cat	Occasional
Channel Cat	Common
Longnose Gar	Occasional

NEXT MONTH — PART 2
LAKE OKEECHOBEE
SOUTHEAST MARSH AREAS



Photo By Edmund McLaurin

At five to ten miles per hour, Broadhurst bore down on frog targets like a Bengal Lancer. He seldom missed.

Gigging frogs takes skill. It's even harder when working from a moving boat and a high seat position

FROG MAN

WHEN I FIRST HEARD skin-diving friends in group conversation mention "Frank, the frog man," I surmised that they were referring to one of their own kind.

I later learned I was wrong; that they were speaking of a professional frog hunter, one Frank Broadhurst of Pinellas Park, Florida.

Broadhurst, I found out, belongs to that unique group of professional froggers who annually "harvest" more than a million dollars—wholesale value—worth of Florida frog legs for the commercial market.

In former days Frank supervised a large crew of professional froggers and made a small fortune from the mutual enterprise, only to lose it in an unsuccessful magazine publishing venture. Now—if the frogs last, as he believes they will—he is on his way to making his second bank-roll.

Sensing a highly interesting story,

I dropped Broadhurst a note and asked if I could accompany him on one of his frog hunting expeditions. His reply was prompt, cordial and affirmative.

Frank uses airboats to reach choice locations and habitually launches his truck-trailed craft at Carlson's Landing Fish Camp, 2½ miles off Florida Highway #44, where this river road route approaches Lake Panosoffkee, traveling south. From there, he can work in several different directions with least water-travel time. . . . His note named a suggested meeting date at his base camp, which I readily confirmed, with thanks.

The evening I joined him, Broadhurst was operating only one boat—his largest. The craft was 13 feet, 6 inches long; 6 feet, 6 inches wide, and powered by a 125 h.p. Lycoming air-cooled aircraft engine.

His other boat is 11 feet, 6 inches long, also 6 feet, 6 inches wide, but

powered by a 65 h.p. Continental engine.

Both boats can roar down waterways and through shallows at a fast clip, but are generally operated at speeds between 5 and 10 miles per hour when actually collecting frogs.

His consumers are the higher class restaurants of the Florida West Coast area. The dressed-out legs bring a dollar a pound, up, depending on the market supply. Commercial restaurant consumers gladly buy available stock and, if necessary, freeze and store it for consumption during periods when frogs are scarce and marketed catches small.

Like fish, frogs are where you find them. . . . Generally they are not too hard to locate. Stagnant freshwater ponds and marshes usually have bullfrog populations waiting to be caught.

A circular area embracing Belle Glade and the outskirts of St. John's

Marsh and Vero Beach and Arcadia, especially, is considered by professionals as being Florida's "golden" frogging section.

An ideal frog hunting night, as froggers regard conditions, is a hot, windless, humid, "buggy" night, when mosquitoes and other insect species are noticeably plentiful and the moon is in first quarter stage. A bad night is one characterized by rain, wind and cold, singly or in combination. . . . Judging by the heat, the stillness and the hordes of insects enveloping us, we had evidently chosen "a good night". . . .

The Withlacoochee River section where Broadhurst frogs is a bird-watcher's paradise. Populating the islands and prairies that dot the river's winding course are countless thousands of birds of many different species.

Snakes and turtles of all sizes are also abundant. Turtles pop heads intermittently above water in almost any direction you look, and you gen-

erally don't travel far without seeing either poisonous water moccasins or harmless water snakes.

It is also a section of the Withlacoochee River I can personally recommend to an entomologist as likely to be his long-sought Shangri-La!

As the airboat leaped impatiently and noisily through the gathering darkness, roaring under full throttle, night-flying insects pelted my face and ears like Northern-state sleet! Wisely, I kept my mouth shut and made no attempt to talk.

Frank was equally non-communicative. Occasionally he brushed off some persistent insect not immediately caught in the draft of the propeller.

A few of the softer-bodied varieties smashed themselves against my glasses; I had to wipe the lenses frequently. During one of these necessary operations, a small, but "hot," insect lodged in an eye and caused a few moments of intense discomfort. Thereafter, I cleaned my glasses without removing them.

The river wind in our faces was pungent with various odors. For a considerable stretch of travel, my

nostrils were assailed with the scent of something very familiar, yet hard to immediately identify as a river odor. Suddenly I realized that, incongruously, the river smelled like fresh-stacked hay. I mentioned it to Frank, and he said the odor was caused by the chemical used by the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission to combat hyacinth growth.

In another area, the smell of burnt chicken feathers was strong, but unidentifiable as to cause and source.

Mostly, however, the wind created by our forward movement was fresh and sweet with the smell of lush river vegetation.

We cut the motor close to the west shore of a small bayou, and awaited complete darkness before starting frogging operations.

Big, ghostly, moss-festooned trees lined the shore, and from beneath these emanated an easily heard high-pitched hum.

"Incredible as it may seem," Frank explained, "that hum you hear is created by millions of flying mosquitoes!"

(Continued on Next Page)

By **EDMUND McLAURIN**



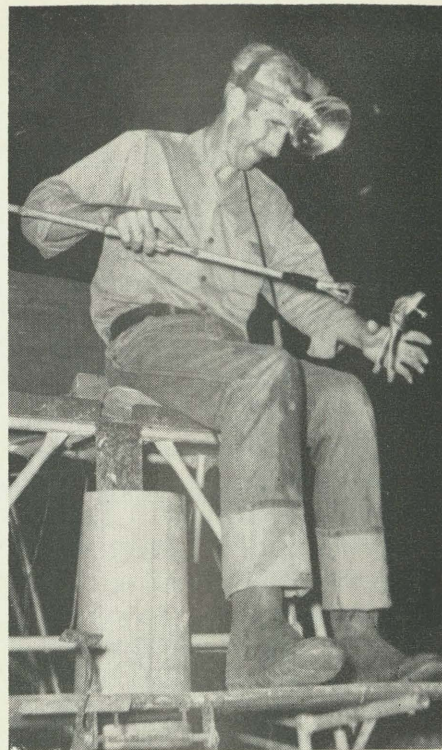
Photo By Wallace Hughes

Frogs are where you find them . . . generally not too hard to locate. Stagnant freshwater ponds and marshes usually have bullfrog populations waiting to be caught.



Gigs are made from straightened fish hooks, spaced to form a 2-inch square on the end of a six foot shaft.

Catches average nine pair of frog legs per pound, although sometimes it takes only two pair to equal a pound.



(Continued from Preceding Page)

We sat and talked for half an hour—about frogs, of state conservation programs, our growing resident population, fishing, the hunting seasons and of personal experiences—before Frank decreed it was dark enough to begin seeking frogs.

He started the powerful aircraft engine, switched on his headlamp and stepped on the accelerator. From a dead stop, we picked up speed fast and fairly flew for the next hundred yards. Frank slowed down and started probing the darkness ahead of and on both sides of the boat with his spotlight.

Like most professional froggers, Broadhurst designs and makes his own headlights. Only the amateurs, as a general policy, buy ready-made spotlights. Frank's light throws a long and powerful beam, energized by a 6-volt auto storage battery.

"There's one!," he yelled to me above the noise of the motor, at the same time pointing. About sixty feet ahead of the bow I made out the shining eyes and white throat of a surfaced frog.

I expected Frank to cut the motor and glide in for a silent, cautious try with the gig, but he didn't. If

anything, he stepped up our forward speed and bore down rapidly on the frog, gig in readiness, like a Bengal Lancer. As we roared by our quarry he leaned over slightly and made a quick, flicking motion with the gig. I could not imagine him connecting with anything while traveling at such a fast clip, but when he lifted his gig he had a big frog impaled on its tines!

As we located other frogs, he repeated his fascinating performance—always transfixing and holding his target in the light's beam, bearing down speedily and making the capturing thrust at exactly the right moment and with unvaried smoothness. I figure he bagged at least a dozen frogs before he missed one.

Broadhurst fashions his gigs from heavy, straightened-shank fishhooks, four barbs to a rig, spaced to form a 2-inch square on the end of a six foot shaft cut from the butt section of a strong cane pole.

Considering the limited contact area of a gig's tines, and the small size of his targets, one nourishes even greater respect for Frank's frog-sticking skill, as demonstrated from a moving boat and a high seat working position at least two feet above water.

Many times his exploring light picked up the red reflector button eyes of alligators. Most of the 'gators were under four feet in length, but in some cases the visible eyes were spaced wide apart—indicating big saurains. These big ones lost little time making submarine disappearance, but their smaller brethren invariably chose to splash and wriggle through the floating vegetation until well clear of the boat.

We made no attempt to bag the big ones, and those under six feet could not be pursued, under Florida law. In their wild state, they proved interesting and entertaining.

Families of racoons, foraging for frogs along shore lines, were also frequently surprised by the beam of Frank's probing light. They would either freeze and stare at the light, or turn and scamper off—usually stopping to look back in curiosity. During the time we were afloat, we must have seen more than a hundred of these animals. The roar of the airboat did not seem to bother them much.

Neither did it seem to cause any great anxiety among the night-wading and shore line foraging birds. Once we passed under a rustic

bridge being temporarily used as a survey point by two large owls. They never moved as the airboat roared beneath their bridge-rail perch.

Another time, a big bass appeared in the light beam on our starboard side, and raced the boat for several yards.

"Say, look at that big water moccasin!" I exclaimed, pointing to a big specimen swimming in an area just inside the encompassing field of Frank's headlight beam.

"He's a big one, all right!" Frank confirmed when he centered the swimming reptile in the light-beam. "Get the oar and see if you can kill him."

We didn't have a firearm aboard, because Florida law prohibits anyone being in the woods or afloat at night in possession of light and gun, but we did have a sturdy aluminum oar. Frank swung the boat about sharply to put me closer to the big snake.

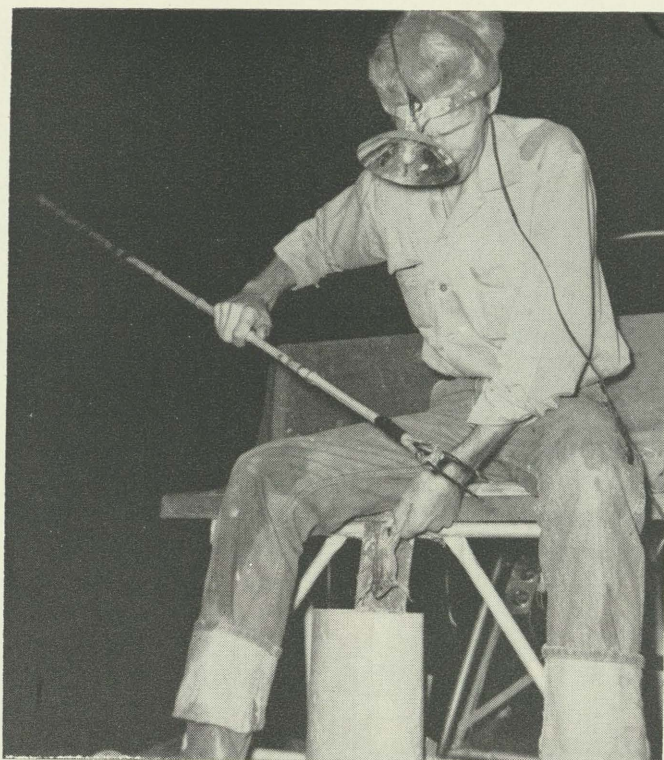
Suddenly, the ugly reptile decided to fight instead of continuing his on-course swim, and swished around to face the boat.

I had only three seconds to grab the oar and swing it overhead like an axe. Luckily, my first blow connected, and the sharp edge of the oar severed the snake's head cleanly. Later, the body section measured out five feet, two inches.

As the night grew older, more and more frogs surfaced.

Surprisingly, they were fairly easy to spot amid the patterned carpet of water vegetation and floating flotsam, not only because their eyes reflected light but because of the uptilt of their throats, figuratively about the same angle a man uses to shave the underside of his chin.

Several times, however, we were falsely attracted by the glint and appearance of almost submerged bottles and beer cans. Not until you cruise a river's over-flow areas at night and during low water stage can you realize how much man-created trash fills our navigable waters. Many of the bottles were covered with slime and were obviously old residents.



As taken, speared frogs were dropped down a metal chute leading into a big cloth bag.

Photos By
Edmund McLaurin

By midnight, when we decided to head back to camp, I estimated we had at least 250 frogs in two cloth bags.

Frank said catches averaged nine pair of frog legs per pound, although sometimes the frogs are so large and fat that it takes only two pair of legs to equal a pound.

With camping and cooking experience dating back to early boyhood, I consider myself a pretty good cook, but back at camp Frank put together a meal that would have satisfied even the San Franciscan gourmet tastes of Paladin.

Selecting a few frogs from the night's catch, Frank skinned and prepared their legs for table use within seconds.

He then dipped the frog saddles in lemon juice, and then in beaten egg. After sprinkling the film-coated legs with salt and pepper, he dipped each leg in cracker crumbs, made by crushing whole crackers under a rolling bottle. The legs were then fried in deep fat for about three minutes, removed, and the excess grease drained off on an absorbent paper towel.

For a tasty appetizer, Frank mixed a pint of sour cream with a package of undiluted dehydrated

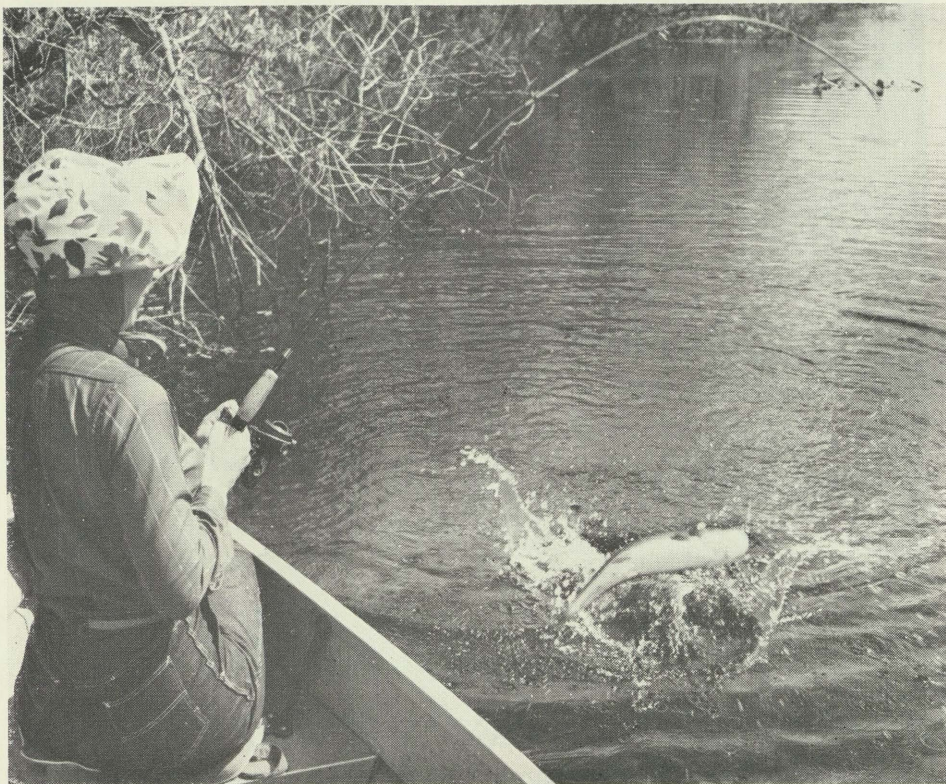
tomato soup. When placed on the table in an open dish, potato chips and crackers were used to scoop up desired amounts of the created "dip." You've missed something if you've never tasted the recipe, made and served as described.

When I finished eating and pushed back my chair, I was glad there were no scales around to check on my weight. . . .

Previously, I had always prepared frog legs for the table by marinating the cleaned legs in salt water for 15 minutes, then draining off the water and sponging each leg dry. I next rolled the legs in fine bread crumbs, then in beaten eggs and again in crumbs seasoned with salt, pepper and a few grains of nutmeg and cayenne. Frying was done in a wire basket, in deep fat at 375 degrees F. The cooked legs were set on an absorbent paper towel or napkin to drain, before being arranged on a hot platter, with a dip cup of tartar sauce. . . .

Whichever of the two methods of preparation you choose, you're in for good eating. . . .

If you ever have a chance to go on a commercial frog hunt, take it. It will be an unforgettable experience. ●



A brawling bowfin gives Kit all she can handle on light spinning gear.

The ugly Bowfin may not
rate as a gamefish,
but he is power packed and
top sport on light tackle

By MAX HUNN

FRESHWATER BRAWLER

AS I THUMBED MY casting reel after a vicious underwater strike, I heard my partner's spinning reel drag whine beseechingly.

We were in business, but I was too busy with my own foe to turn to watch. We sought action. We had action! What more could any angler ask?

My black, casting line zinged through the water as my underwater foe headed for the brush-laden bank of the back country canal. I applied more pressure, but still he kept boring doggedly for cover, looking for something handy on which to snap my line.

I increased the pressure on my casting reel. My thumb grew hot. More pressure, and more heat. Then pow! The 15-pound line broke.

Cranking in the shattered line, I turned to watch Kit, whose limber spinning rod was vibrating in a tight U. She kept working to take up her slack as her finny apponent twisted and turned, keeping her drag singing. I saw the line slacken.

He was headed towards the boat, probably to jump.

Good! I thought. She's got a lively bass. Her fish came out of the water in a violent, tail-dancing movement, paused momentarily in the air, and then fell back with a heavy splash. It was a fighting maneuver that would make any bass proud, only I knew now we weren't fighting bass. No, indeed, we'd encountered a killer pack of one of the toughest, meanest, freshwater brawlers I know—mudfish, more generally known officially as bowfins.

Kit survived the tail dancing antics, and gradually wore him down, and worked him alongside the boat where I could land him with a pair of aluminum fish grippers. Even then he didn't quit, but beat a bass-drum tattoo on the resonant side of our aluminum skiff.

Action? We'd found it. For down right rough and tumble fighting, coupled with vicious strikes at artificials (or live bait), the bowfin is second to none, and when hungry

and schooled up in killer packs, they'll give any angler an unforgettable workout.

I know, for I haven't forgotten that day's encounter deep in the Everglades in this all-but-forgotten canal where the schooling muds were outracing the more sluggish bass to a meal as the water table fell.

As table fare, the bowfin—also known as dogfish, and by such other tags as brindle cat, blackfish, grindle, cottonfish, choupique, speckled cat, lawyer, cypress trout, scaled ling, poisson de marais and \$%!—names you don't use in polite society — is worthless. But as a fighter who'll use every ounce against you, he's tops.

Table fishermen, naturally describe him #\$\$%! with only the vrehemance a bait stealer can warrant, and Mr. Bowfin is adept at stealing bait, and not too easy to hook and land, for he has a hard mouth full of sharp, tiny teeth, capable of biting

through ordinary spinning lines less than 15-pound test.

He gives unsuspecting bass fishermen a thrill, for he's found in bass waters, particularly in the south. However, you'll seldom find him in swift, clear water. Many southern waters are ideal for him for he prefers sluggish, black bottom waters, and in the canals which criss-cross parts of Florida—generally the result of some wildcat, real estate promotion years ago—and in the swamps, he finds his haven. And in the same waters largemouth bass abound.

It leads to a mixed up situation. You never know when you'll encounter him. I'll never forget the action a school provided one spring day in the fabulous Tamiami Canal paralleling U.S. 41 west of Miami, which produces prolific bass bags especially after two or three years of continued high waters in the 'Glades and Cypress.

Why we stopped at this place, I don't know. Mainly because it didn't show the marks of heavy fishing, although it had excellent cover.

I flipped my plastic worm near a brush covered rock on the far shore, and zowie! Action! My slender spin

rod bent, yet the fish didn't seem too large. But it was a struggle for he was taking advantage of the heavy, underwater grass. It was more like a dredging operation than angling. Bowfin, I thought, as he struggled, waging a terrific, weed-aided fight. But I was wrong. He was a near pound and a half bass.

Umm, I thought. This place has possibilities. It had, but not for bass. He was the first, last and only one caught in the next 30 minutes. But in that interval I broke three lines, landed four bowfins, ranging up to six pounds, and lost another six after battles of various lengths.

The water was dropping in the area, and the bowfins were in killer packs. They were hitting anything that moved, live or dead, and hitting with vicious strikes that any angler enjoys.

Kit, who was just learning to fish, had wanted some angling practice. She got it. Broken tackle, lost lures and three bowfins on the bank.

"Do they always hit like this?" she said breathlessly, as she fought one, who succeeded in getting into the grass cover, and wouldn't budge, necessitating breaking off her 8-pound mono.

"Not always," I puffed, between playing a vicious one, and trying to answer her question.

As my spinning rod arched into a tight U, I continued:

"They do this when the water's getting low, and feed's hard to find. They're vicious now."

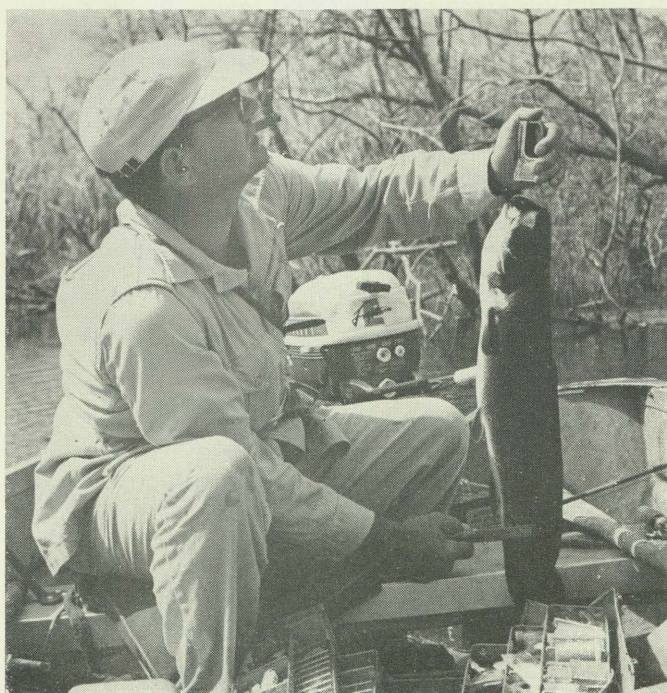
"Yeah," she laconically remarked, her brake squealing as she set the hook in another. "Vicious ain't the word."

The bowfins wore us out. Cast after cast, they socked vigorously, and finally, after half an hour, we tired of feeding them plastic worms and repairing tackle, and went off to find a better bass hole. The bass undoubtedly were there, but when it comes to feeding, and a mudfish is hungry or angry, the bass find the menu lean indeed.

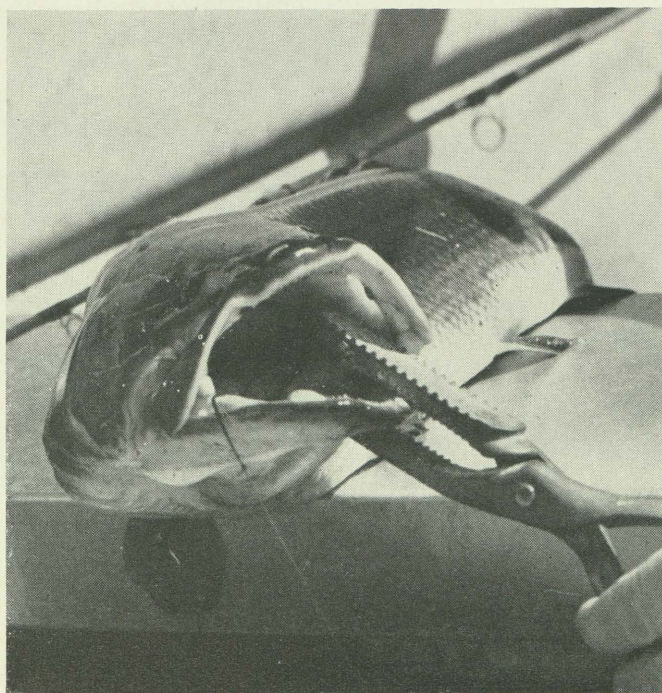
One reason I've noticed for the fighting ability of the bowfin is that you seldom hook one under a couple of pounds. Why? I don't know. But you can almost bet you'll have at least a two-pounder arguing with you, if not larger. And how they'll argue!

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission of Florida which has
(Continued on Page 37)

Bowfins are ugly characters, and keep fingers out of their mouths — those teeth are sharp.



The author weighs a battling mudfish landed on light spinning tackle — six pounds even.



FACTS ABOUT FISH AND FISHING

By **RONALD G. HIGGINS**
Information Extension Officer

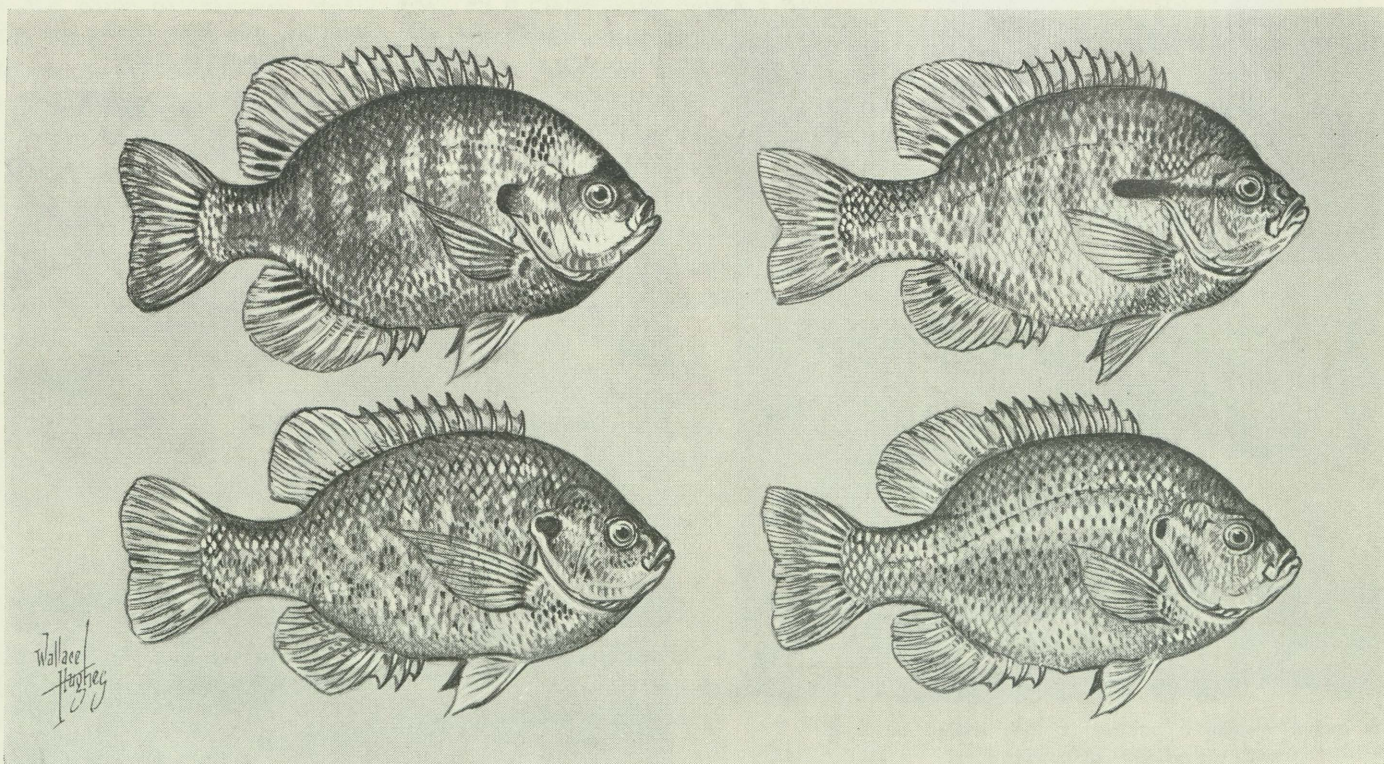


FLORIDA IS KNOWN THROUGHOUT the world as having some of the best warm-water fishing that can be obtained by an angler. The State has an estimated 30,000 fresh-water lakes, and 166 rivers and streams, plus countless miles of canals and watersheds. The State's 2,999,800 acres of fresh waters are filled with an abundance of fishes numbering 154 species.

What Kind Of Fish?

Of the 154 species of fresh water fish found in Florida waters, 13 are considered game fish and have bag limits set on them. They are the black bass, white bass, chain pickerel or jack, bluegill, shellcracker, black crappie, red breast, warmouth, stumpknocker, flier, long ear, rock bass, dollar sunfish.

The better known species of bream are the Bluegill, upper left; Shellcracker, lower left; Red-breast, shown at upper right; and the Stumpknocker, lower right.



What Are Bream?

Bream (pronounced as "brim") is a term used in describing some members of the sunfish family, as well as describing the single species of bluegill bream. A few of the better known species classed under the general term of bream are bluegill, shellcracker, red breast and stumpknocker. These fishes are also called panfish or sunfish.

Is There A Fishing Season?

No. You can fish in Florida fresh waters 24 hours a day for 365 days a year.

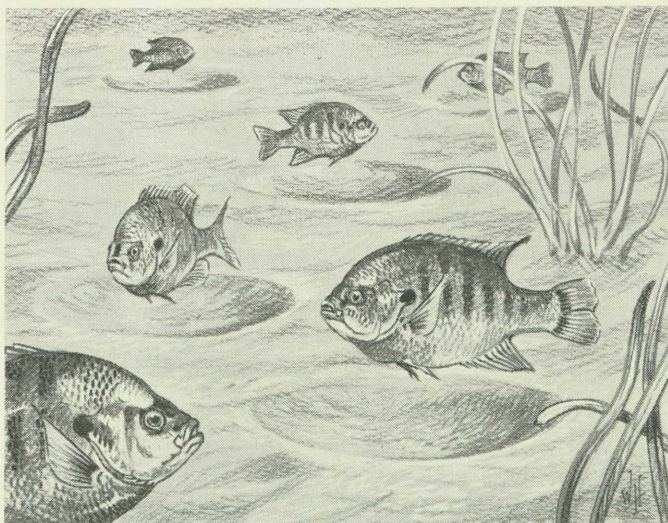
Why Not Close Fishing In Spawning Season?

Fish are a water crop very much like a land crop, and if not harvested they will die and be wasted in a very short time. Sport fishermen should harvest them like any other crop. This is advantageous to both fishermen and fishing. Catching fish with hook-and-line during the spawning season does not harm the fish population of a lake. Hook-and-line fishing is actually an inefficient, and, therefore, sporting method of fishing. It is impossible to catch all the fish in any sizeable body of water through use of a hook-and-line.

Is There a Size Limit?

No. In Florida you can keep any size fish you catch. As will be shown, fish are very prolific and it is actually helpful to remove the smaller fish to allow the larger ones to grow. This keeps the fish population in balance.

For fresh water fishing literature, and Florida rules and regulations, write to: Information—Education Division, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.



Florida Bluegills are prolific spawners. They begin spawning when the water temperature reaches 80 degrees, although they start "fanning out" a nest when the water temperature reaches 73 degrees. They can produce young as many as five times a year.



Fish are a fresh water crop very much like a land crop, and should be properly harvested by the fisherman. In Florida you can keep any size fresh water fish you catch.

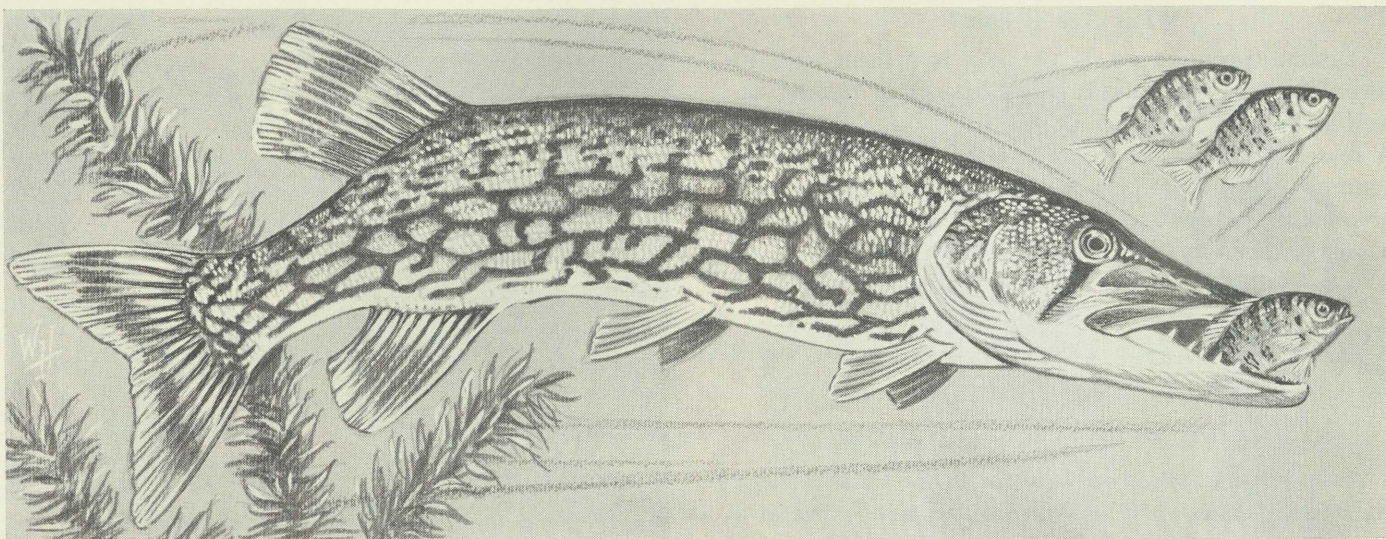
Do Fish Spawn By The Moon?

No. According to leading authorities, fish do not spawn as the result of the moon's phases. Fish actually spawn when water in the lakes and streams reaches a certain temperature in the Spring. It doesn't matter to fish if the moon is one-half, one-quarter, three-quarters, dark or full. However, more fish are often caught prior to a full moon, because more people are fishing at this time.

Will Catching Fish Off The Nest Hurt?

No. Catching fish by hook-and-line off a spawning bed will not destroy or seriously harm the fish population in a lake. Bass for instance, like all other warm water fishes, are very prolific, and one female may spawn from 10,000 to 30,000 eggs in a single nest. One blue gill bream may spawn 2,000 to 10,000 eggs into a single nest. It would be virtually impossible to catch all the nesting fish in a lake, and the offspring of just a few nests would be enough to more than replace all those caught by fishermen. For example: A single big female bass in a one-acre farm pond could produce enough young that, if all conditions were favorable and all the eggs hatched and all the fish survived for just three generations, the total fish, at a weight of one pound each, would more than replace all the water! This would make a pile of fish one acre in area and 700 feet high above the pond!

(Continued on Next Page)



Carnivorous fish like the chain pickerel, or "jack," live off the smaller fishes, thereby helping nature control balanced numbers of fish in a body of water.

(Continued from Preceding Page)

What About Spawning Bream?

Although bass are prolific spawners, they are out-classed by the smaller bluegill bream. Bass ordinarily spawn about once a year. They begin fanning out a nest when the water temperature reaches 65 degrees, and when the temperature reaches 70 degrees and remains there for 48 to 72 hours, the bass begin spawning. Bluegill, however, begin fanning out a nest when the temperature reaches 73 degrees, and begin spawning when the temperature attains 80 degrees and remains there for 48 to 72 hours. The difference, however, is most striking in the fact that the same bluegill may spawn and bring young off the next every six weeks. And the bluegill may spawn when it weighs only one-half ounce or more, and there are records of spawning bluegills that were only five months old. Therefore, the total reproduction potential of a single bluegill far exceeds that of a single bass.

Should We Keep The "Little" Ones?

Yes. The previous examples of bass and bream show that fish have thousands of "little ones" every spawning season in Florida and if they're not caught or taken by some means, the lakes and streams will soon become over populated or out of balance and fish would begin to get smaller or die off from crowding and lack of food. You can compare the annual yield of fish in a lake to the same area of farm land. That is, food conditions and other determining factors are such that a small lake or pond might maintain a total of 100 pounds of fish. Now this may be 100 fish weighing one pound each, or it may be 1,000 fish weighing 0.1 pounds each. There is only so much food

and space available in any certain lake or pond, and the total number of fish will share it in proportion to their number and size. When you remove some of the small ones, the proportionate amount of food per fish in the lake is increased, and the remaining fish will grow larger, faster.

How Does Nature Help?

Nature has its way of helping control the number of fishes in a body of water in the form of large carnivorous, or flesh-eating, fishes. Some of the carnivores found in Florida's fresh waters are the largemouth black bass (sometimes called "trout"), the garfish, and the bowfin, also called "mudfish," and pickerel, also called "jack." These fish live off the smaller fishes. However, it must be noted that the carnivorous fish do not reproduce as fast as some of the fish they feed on. With people throwing back all the "little ones," the carnivorous fish cannot eat enough of the fast-reproducing fishes to keep them in balance.

What Are The Fast-Producing Fishes?

The types of fast producing fish that are most often found to be overpopulated in a Florida lake or stream are bluegills and the gizzard shad, which is classed as an undesirable or rough fish. Bluegills have been known to spawn as many as five times in a year, and may have 10,000 eggs in each nest. Gizzard shad don't have nests, but are even more prolific than bluegills."

How Is a Fish Population Determined?

The fisheries biologist may first use a minnow seine around the edges of a lake to determine whether or not the fish population is reproducing. The number and age of the small fish taken gives the answer. Then a larger seine, or gill and trammel nets, are employed to obtain a sample of the sub-adult and adult fish popu-

lation. Certain fish killing chemicals are then used at various spots throughout the lake to obtain additional samples.

Electrical shocking devices are sometimes used in the sampling of larger lakes. By this method, fish may be studied and returned to the water without injury.

After all sampling has been completed, the following data has been compiled—species present, percentage composition of each species in relation to total population, lengths and weights of each species, and information as to reproduction.

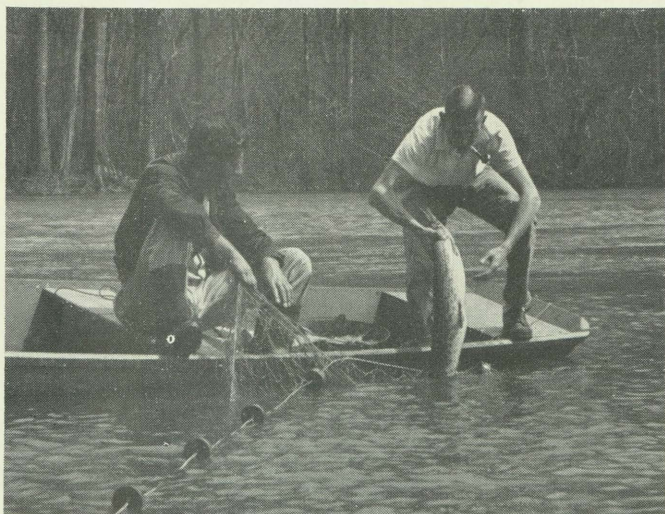
Interpretation of this data reveals to the fisheries biologist the condition of the fish population of a lake.

How Fast Do Fish Grow in Florida?

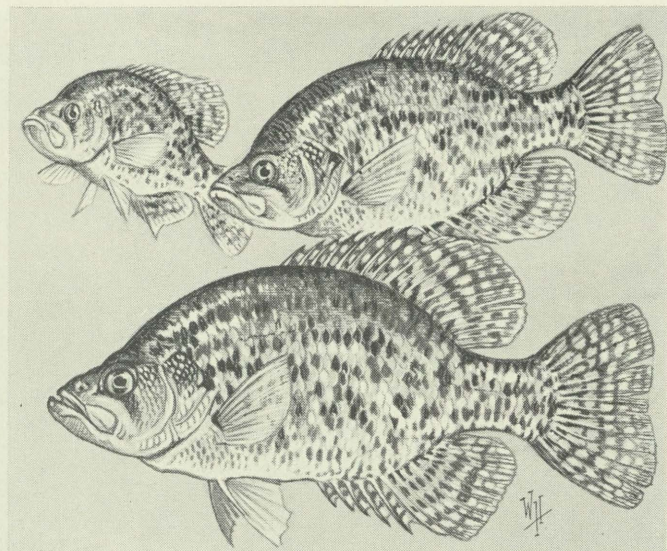
Under average conditions, a bass will grow to a length of one foot, or one pound, in only one year, whereas, in some northern states, this would take two to three years. Crappies (pronounced “crop-pies”), or speckled perch, as they are sometimes called, may reach a length of 4½ inches by the end of the first year, 8½ inches the second year and just under 10 inches by the third year. These figures were obtained from the study of the life history of the black crappie in Lake George. Not all three-year old crappies in Florida are 10 inches long, but this is a good average.

What Do Fresh Water Fish Eat?

Fish are generally classified, for biological purposes, as to their eating habits. Forage fish are those that feed on plankton, algae, insects and worms. Plankton is a term that applies to all free-floating microscopic organisms that are found in water. This group of fish includes small sunfishes, suckers, and miscellaneous minnows. Carnivorous fishes are those that feed mostly on other fish, particularly those of the forage group. The carnivorous fishes include bass, speckled perch, pickerel or jack, bowfin, and garfish.



In studying the fish population of a body of water, the fisheries biologist may use seines, nets, fish-killing chemicals, and electrical devices to collect specimens of fishes.



Like all fresh water fish found in Florida, the Black Crappie grows rapidly. At one year of age a Crappie may measure 4½ inches in length; be 8½ inches long by age two, and reach 10 inches by age three.

Why Can't We Restock All Waters Every Year?

Stocking should be done only in cases where the fish populations are out of balance because of the natural reproduction being low, or where the fish that were present were destroyed or depleted by some means. Stocking is also needed in a newly constructed or renovated lake or pond. The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has two fish hatcheries in Florida, one at Holt and one at Blackwater. Each year, the Commission restocks many lakes and ponds, but only where it is proven necessary as the result of tests by a fisheries biologist. Newly created ponds, built with the aid of the Soil Conservation Service, are also stocked and managed by the Commission. Additional fish are obtained when needed from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Hatchery, at Welaka.

Do Diseased Fish Affect Humans?

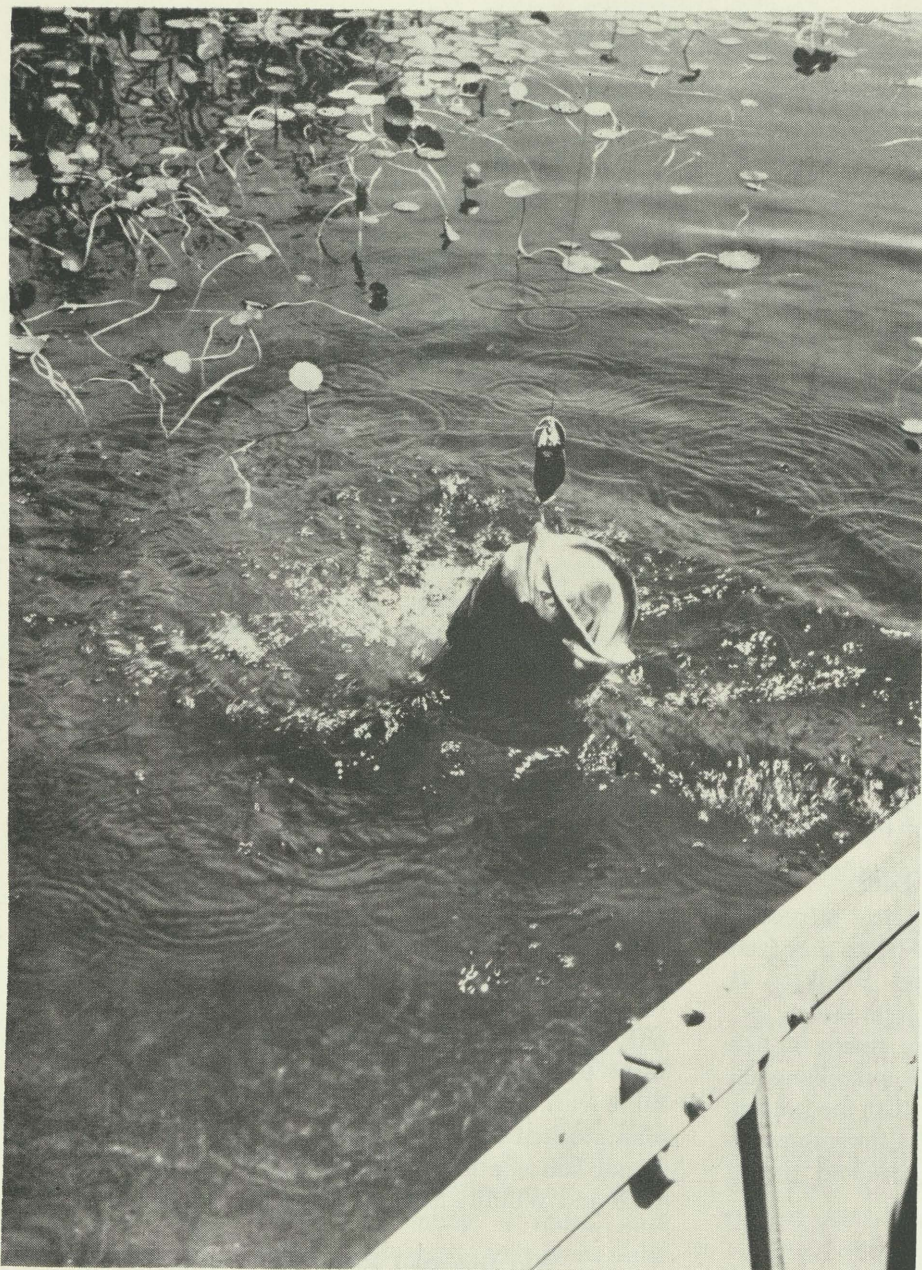
Not in Florida. There is no known disease of fish in Florida waters that will have any effect on humans when eaten, if the fish is well cooked before eating. Most diseases that effect fish normally attack them during the late spring and summer. During this time of year, fish are in a weakened condition as a result of spawning. As long as fish are physically strong, disease and parasites usually have little effect on them.

What Is The Value of Fresh Water Sport Fishing In Florida?

According to recent surveys, Florida's fresh water sport fishing has an annual resource value of at least 150 million dollars.

Fishing In Florida Is Fun . . . Try It Today. ●

The information in this article based upon technical information advanced by the Fisheries Division, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.



A six-pound bass in his laxy flurry. A rapidly trolled lure was his downfall.

Always remember that there is a time and place for everything, and frequently — in fishing — it's time to try trolling.

By ART HUTT

TROLLING TACTICS

WHEN WE ROUNDED Dillard's point in Lake Eustis, it looked as though an invasion were taking place. Coming at us were four boats. Two of the smallest were comfortably rigged with seat-backs, their elderly owners reclining restfully against them. The third, a big flat-bottomed job, was shared by a young couple. The other was a deluxe Fiberglas cabin model, occupants peacefully lounging on the soft cushioned seats. Even though their age, rigs—and income—were obviously different, these people were all doing something in common.

And that was trolling.

Trolling is one of the oldest methods of fishing, both sport or commercial. In its earlier days, it was done from a paddled or rowed boat, equipment consisting of a simple handline with a shiny spoon attached.

Except for bank or bridge fishing, there is no other form of angling in which so many people can participate on an equal basis. With a dependable motor and a minimum boat, oldsters become fishing youngsters. Neophytes troll as skillfully as the seasoned veteran. Women and children have only to hold the rod and reel. The most it demands is patience.

It would seem that trolling is a common denominator, each angler having the same possibilities of hooking into a fish.

In Florida, trolling is popular, and well it should be for it appeals to this variety of tastes, and consistently produces some of the biggest bass.

Through the years trolling has changed from one simple style to more modern methods with many ramifications.

As a youngster, I sat for many an hour patiently watching the water glide by, gripping a short metal rod expectantly, as my dad or uncle worked the slowly-moving boat—

and sometimes faltering motor—along the weeds or lily pads that fringed the shore. More often than not, I was trolling a spoon with a free-swinging hook, or a medium-running plug. It was part of the game to keep the lure as close to the weeds as possible (the troller next to the weeds always caught more fish) without getting hung up. Dipping deep into coves and skitting the points, we relied upon the physical fact that a lure will, with some slippage, pretty well track after a line as it is laid out in the water.

We emphasized weedy points, the mouths and outlets of rivers—and known hotspots that always gave up a fish or two. And where we caught a fish, we circled and trolled through the same area again, often adding another bass to the stringer for our efforts.

Commonly we trolled with a short line, sometimes within twenty-five feet of the boat, then again as far back as seventy-five feet. It depended on the lure. A deep diver we held close; a medium or shallow runner we gave more line so that it could hunt for the bottom.

And we varied speeds. With no luck at a creep, we'd advance to a crawl. From there we'd pep it up

still further—but nowhere near the speed of the fast trolling today. We varied our speeds until we caught fish—or gave up in disgust.

One technique we used still puts fish on the stringer today. We gave our lines a continual “draw-and-release” motion—pulling it ahead a foot or so, then dropping it back, pulling ahead, and dropping back. This makes a lure more closely imitate a darting minnow, and the bass seem to like it—even prefer it—over the straight drag.

When there were three of us in the boat, the angler in the front seat often rigged up his casting rod with a surface lure, weedless spoon, or pork chunk. He worked the pockets the trolled lures couldn't hit. Things became a little involved when two fish struck at the same time, but that was all part of the game.

In trolling, it pays to check your lure frequently to see if it has been fouled by a weed. Often you can tell by the reduced lure action, transmitted through your rod tip, that something is amiss. There again, a tiny weed strand may not be obvious—to anything other than a bass! You may as well troll with no lure at all, in that case.

In the evolution of trolling, several factors have been involved.

For one, there has been the advent of dependable outboard motors; that will tick them off at a speed that barely gives the boat steerage-way. And they run with a whisper. The only penalty is a sparkplug or two that may need an occasional sand-blasting to knock some of the carbon off, but even this effort has become an infrequent necessity. Electric motors, too, can play an important part in a trollers life.

And today, trolling has more diversity in tackle.

A good-grade bait-casting reel has always been acceptable and now trollers have added the service-type reels and the light salt-water models. Equipped with star drags, these models have large line capacities, and with drag set, can be put in a rod holder and forgotten. The drag should be turned tight enough to set the hooks when a fish hits, yet loose enough so that it slips when necessary. Open-face or closed-face spinning reels work well, too.

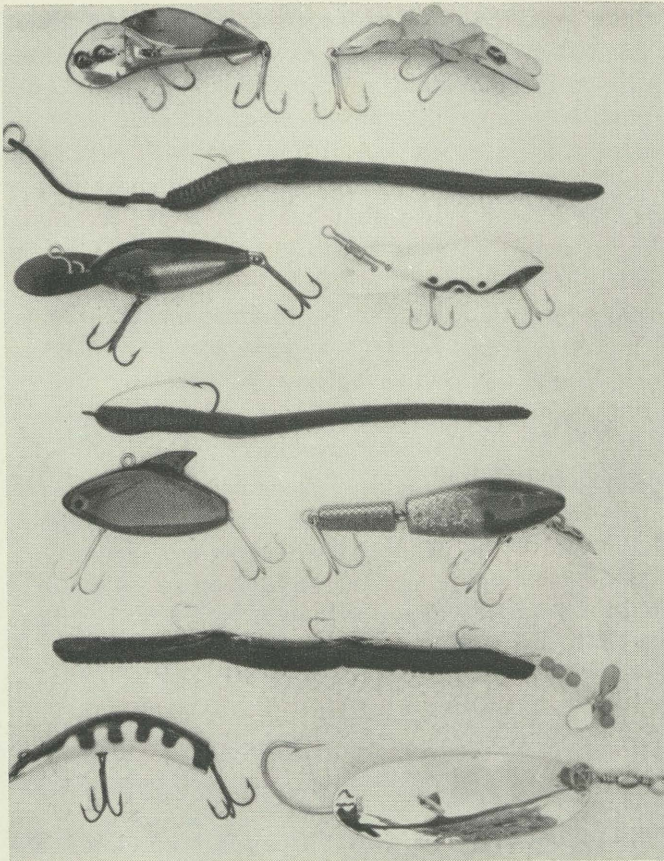
Rods for trolling are best kept on the stiff, short side. A light-action rod bends too much at the constant strain of dragging a lure; a long rod is usually too soft. My favorite is a hollow-glass rod, about five-feet,

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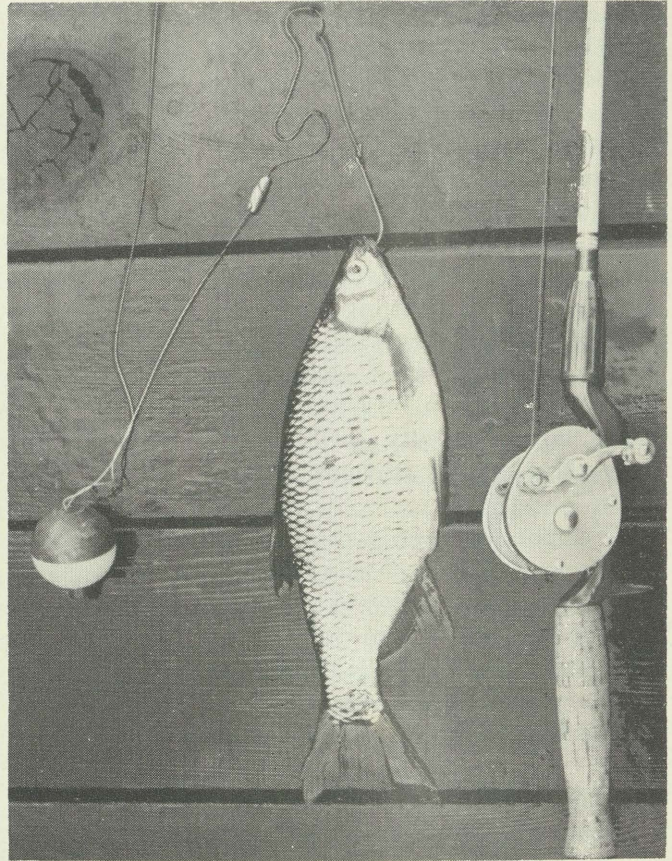


Veteran troller I. C. Christian, of Eustis, Fla., rigs with three rods, none hand-held. Railings and horn are safety devices.

Photos By
Art Hutt



An assortment of artificials like this will keep a fresh water troller in business practically anywhere in Florida.



A trolling set-up for live bait. An outfit like this is a shade on the light side for towing around horse size shiners.

(Continued from preceding page)

two-inches long, with an action that can only be described as stiff. Actually it is a bait-casting model, designed for lures in the 5/8-ounce-and-up class.

To my notion, line selection is least important. I've always kept mine in the fifteen-pound class, and recently I've switched to monofilament in that test bracket. On a medium-quality reel, it performs perfectly, and the invisible monofilament line is always an advantage in any fishing situation.

When it comes to lures though, this is where the real evolution—or revolution—has taken place. As mentioned, years ago there were several accepted standbys—mainly the spoons, the wobbling plugs.

Today, they still persist, many in improved form. Old favorites have been jointed, newly patterned, or sprinkled with glitter. Deep runners have long lips that make the lure "trip" over obstructions. Or a slack-

ing of the line lets these float upward to free themselves.

But added to these trollers are the spoon-plug type lures, the plastic eel-and-worm imitations, and even live bait itself.

It wasn't too long ago that a North Carolina lure manufacturer came out with a lure designed for trolling at speeds way above the ordinary—up to ten miles per hour. Although regarded with raised eyebrows, a few trollers gave it a genuine try. At cruising speeds, they hooked into bass, proving for once and for all that trolling doesn't necessarily have to be done at a snail's pace if you have a lure that will stay in the water and not twist at that speed.

Fast trolling is, of course, not a positive answer to limit catches; but at times it can be very productive and its variation is sometimes a relief.

Another relatively new idea is trolling with plastic worm-or-eel

baits. Central-Florida anglers slide a half-ounce or full-ounce slip sinker on their line, then tie on a barrel swivel. To this they add a three-foot piece of monofilament, and the eel or worm. In use, they let out enough line so that the sinker occasionally thumps against the bottom.

Some anglers use a hook with a weed guard, others a plain hook, or they tie on one of those worm or eels rigged with bright beads, a spinner, and two or three hooks. It doesn't seem to make much difference.

One of the first times I used this set-up was in Lake Yale, just outside of Eustis. My companion and I slid on the slip sinkers, swivels, and plastic eels. We used No. 1 hooks threaded well into the plastic bodies.

We trolled in the north end of the lake off Log Landing, a deep lily-pad fringed cove from which, years ago, cypress logs were floated across the lake. It became a rough, windy day,

and for safety's sake, we had just about decided to head back to camp. And then we started getting hits.

The flashback seems ridiculous, but we lost four nice bass in short order. One came out of the water to jettison the fishing hardware as I tried to keep the boat from shipping water in a trough. Two others hit and sulked near the bottom. When I attempted to turn the boat to run upwind towards them, they both chose to get off. Another broke a twenty-four pound test line spooled on only the night before. The sad part was that we knew all these fish were "baking size"—and we like 'em big for baking!

While admittedly a comedy of errors, this fishing farce proved to us that eel-trolling was yet another method to be added to our inventory of trolling tricks.

Many really lunker bass are taken by trolling live shiners, too. Motors are turned down about as slow as they'll idle, and the trollers let loose lip-hooked shiners. Sometimes they use a fairly heavy sinker to hold the shiner down and a big gaudy float for visibility; then again, at times they add no terminal tackle. The bait is trolled well back from the boat. Because of the constant strain, especially when pulling a "horse shiner" through the water, a light surf outfit works nicely in this method.

Admittedly, shiner trolling can be rewarding along a weedy shore, but it is at its best when applied in big openings in the lily pads, such as those found at Lane Park on Lake Harris. I watched one boat working its way around the pads there land a ten-pounder right near me. When this one was slid on a stringer to join a pair of seven pounders, I nearly dropped my perch pole.

At Lane Park, Bill Willingham has seen tremendous catches brought into his camp by shiner trolling. One such catch by Ben Pierce of New York of 5 bass totalled 49 pounds! Mr. Pierce keeps his line well greased so it will float, and most commonly uses nothing more than a hook and the bait.

Each area has its experts. When you want to know something about trolling, seek them out and ask their advice. One such gentleman is Charles McCullough of Mt. Dora. He has some interesting viewpoints. For one he's an early riser, trolling only from dawn to two or three hours after it. He uses light salt-water tackle, letting his lures drop some two-hundred feet behind his boat. He fishes about 15 to 20 feet off the weeds. Twice he has caught two fish on one plug; once their total weight exceeded eight pounds. When he trolls with plastic worms, Mr. McCullough drops one behind the sinker on a two-foot leader, then adds another, still tied on at the sinker, on a longer line. Once in awhile they tangle, but more often than not, they wiggle through the water enticingly.

His best catch to date has been a high-quality folding chair which sashayed convincingly to the surface as he "fought" it. His second best catch was a 13½-pounder from a small lake near Umatilla.

An elderly expert in the Eustis area is Mr. I. C. Christian. He has taken pains to make his boat both

safe and fishable. On the stern seat, he's installed a swivel chair-seat and back. Holders on each gunwale take over his rods. Another wooden socket on the middle seat holds a third rod and directs it squarely over the motor.

It seems that several years ago one of his trolling companions suffered a stroke. Seated up front, fortunately the stricken gentleman fell into the boat, rather than out of it. This close call alerted Mr. Christian to such dangers and he came up with a ¾-inch, plumbing-pipe railing firmly fastened to the coaming behind his seat and at the front seat on the opposite side of his boat. All in all, it is a neat, sensible installation.

Trolling methods don't have to be restricted to bass. By trolling a tiny, deep-running lure or jig in many lakes, pre-season perch can be literally massacred. Pickerel, bowfins, and catfish will go for a trolled lure too. One of my most exciting fishing moments was spent in regaining my trolling lure from an eleven-pound channel cat in Haines Creek not too long ago.

(Continued on page 35)



Draggers at work off the T-dock at Eustis are G. C. Hartman, left, and G. Benski. A slow pace yields the most strikes.

Photos By Art Hutt

BEST ALL-ROUND BASS

IT WAS ONE OF THOSE beautiful clear-breaking mornings with a faultless arch of blue overhead and only a hint of breeze in the air, the kind of an early summer morning seemingly made for fishing. There was but one thing wrong with it. Someone forgot to cue the bass that they were supposed to be hitting.

L.A. Wilke, Paul Bryan and I left Bryan's fishing camp at the highway bridge at the lower end of Lake Kissimmee well before dawn was even a promise on the eastern horizon. We ran down the snaking Kissimmee River for seventeen miles to the perimeter of Avon Park Game Management Area before starting to work topwater lures along the endless floating masses of water hyacinths.

We drifted with the river, probing every niche in the hyacinths. Occasionally we'd tempt a diminutive largemouth with our offerings, but by nine o'clock we had only a brace of keepers on the stringer. As we headed upstream around mid-morning, I rummaged through my tackle box until my eyes settled on a plastic container brimming with lures. I broke it open and scanned the selection. Finally, I picked out a battered spinner-type lure, yellow colored.

After a brief ride, Bryan stopped the outboard runabout in a sharp bend of the river and we began moving lazily with the current. He and Wilke sprayed their surface lures along the shoreline. I lobbed the yellow Abu spinner down the heart of the current, allowed it to settle for a moment and started it homeward slowly.

I could feel the spinner working frantically in the current. The lure was almost to the boat when something grabbed it. Shortly, I had a two-pounder flouncing in the boat. The next four casts produced four strikes, three of the fish being keep-

**Each Fisherman
has a pet
bait — mine is the
versatile spinner**

By RUSSELL TINSLEY

ers. That sent my two companions scrounging through their tackle boxes after spinner lures. Within the hour we'd added eight more bass to the stringer.

An isolated incident? Perhaps. But I'm inclined to believe that the

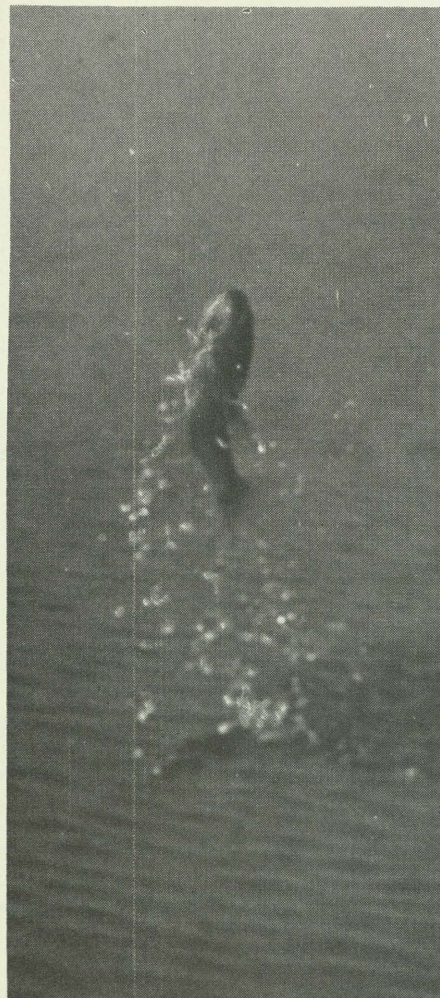
dependable spinner simply saved another day for me. If I had to make the choice of one single lure for all my bass fishing from now on, I'd take this yellow - colored spinner lure. Through the test of time it has produced more consistently than anything else that I have tried.

I recall one particular lure that held a special spot in my fishing memories. It had a body constructed of three gold-colored beads and a flashy nickel - plated spinner. A friend gave me a couple of these baits, and they were always good for a few bass on practically every trip. At times, this lure paid off when nothing else worked. After that pair was gone, I was unable to uncover duplicates in any sporting goods store. My imitations after that were handmade, but I never built one that quite had the action of those given me by my now deceased friend. I'm still looking, however, hoping to someday find another of the mysterious lures.

A spinner has some sort of special appeal to bass. What it really is supposed to imitate, I'm not sure. It's been proved that bass do not strike lures simply because they resemble any type of natural foods. There are other motivations, such as anger. Perhaps the incessant flash and vibration of a spinner irritates a temperamental bass into striking.

There are two basic designs of true spinner lures. One has a metal body tapered at either end, a spinner in front with a trailing treble hook. The other has a lead head and an offset spinner. A V-shaped wire is the basic design, with the lead body at one terminal of the V, and either a single or treble hook at the other.

Spinners also are added to various



With the feel of the spinner's hooks, a belligerent largemouth shoots out of the water.

LURE

other lures to give them added flash. Some anglers place them in tandem with spoons. Even a few full-bodied lures are equipped with spinners. A good fly-rod bait for bass is a yellow or black streamer fly with a spinner placed forward.

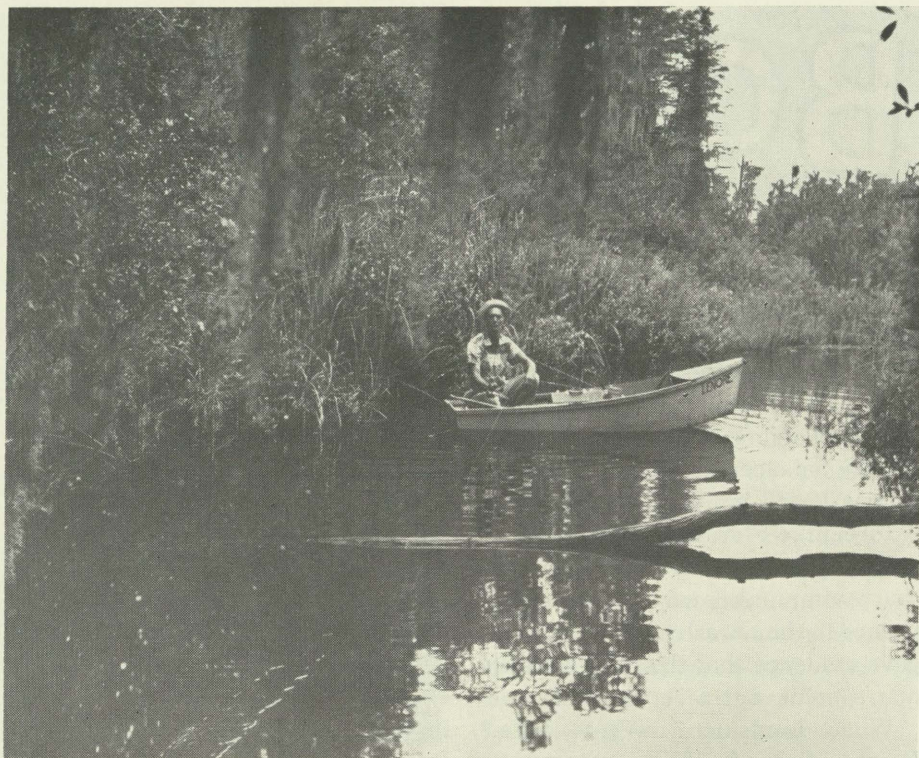
There are varied types of spinners, ranging from oblong designs to pear-shaped spinners. Most are either plain or hammered brass, or nickel plated. The duller brass color seems to work best in clear waters, the nickel-plated spinners when the water is slightly murky.

The cigar-shaped spinner lures are found in two basic sizes—one-fourth and one-third ounce. The offset-spinner baits come basically in three-eighths, one-half and five-eighths ounce sizes. The smaller lures catch the most bass while the larger ones take bigger bass, on the average.

A majority of the spinner-type lures are designed to operate at a shallow depth. The angler can vary the retrieve simply by allowing the lure to sink to any depth he chooses, and by either reeling fast or slow. With a fast retrieve, the bait rises toward the surface; when reeled slowly it tends to remain at a deeper depth.

Spinner baits come in about every color scheme imaginable. My two personal favorites are yellow with black dots, and black with yellow dots. On the offset-spinner types with rubber skirts, I prefer a yellow body with a black skirt, or vice-versa. Another good producer is white with black dots. Yellow and black encompass both light and dark color shades, and they will handle most every situation. Of the two, I like yellow best.

One of the most effective ways of fishing a spinner lure for big bass is to work it right along the bottom, much in the fashion of a leadhead jig or plastic worm. The offset-spinner model with rubber skirt and sin-



A spinner-type lure proved best in this diminutive Florida stream. The spinner often proves effective when worked close by fallen trees, and along the edge of weed beds.

gle hook is best. Allow the lure to sink on or near the bottom, then work it back gradually with stop-and-go jerks, moving the lure just fast enough to make the spinner tick-tock. Another effective retrieve is to fish one of the cigar-shaped spinner lures right along the surface. When you cast, start reeling the instant the lure kisses the surface. Raise your rod tip almost to a vertical position, and maintain a constant reeling speed which will bring the lure skimming along the top, churning a wake with its spinner blade. Sometimes this retrieve is particularly deadly when the lure is worked parallel to a weed bed, just as close to the bordering cover as possible without fouling the lure.

Not only is the spinner lure versatile in the manner with which it is retrieved, but it also can be fished in a variety of waters—from tiny cypress-bottom ponds to sprawling lakes. In fact, for postage-stamp waters such as narrow streams and diminutive ponds, the one-fourth ounce spinner fished with spinning tackle is almost ideal. Here, usually, the bass are two-pounds in size or

less, and a smaller lure will prompt the most strikes.

The spinner lure's biggest drawback, naturally, is vulnerability to fouling vegetation. The spinner is primarily an open-water lure. The slightest sliver of moss can jam the spinner blade, and it seems the exposed treble hooks are forever grabbing on any and every weed in a body of water.

On the offset-spinner type lures, a single weedless hook will alleviate this problem somewhat, but the spinner still is prone to get snarled by weeds and moss. Some lures of this type also come equipped with double upright hooks, which is nothing more than a treble hook with the downward hook clipped off so there is nothing to snag on the bottom.

The spinner-type lure is the most steady performer in my tackle box. Through all seasons and all types of fishing conditions, it will produce. Perhaps it won't be as spectacular at times as surface lures or bottom-bumping baits like the plastic worm, but it is a consistent and dependable workhorse. That's why I nominate it as the best all-round bass lure.

Don't you agree? ●

BOATING



BY
DON
CULLIMORE

THE BEAGLE PUP, who bears the apt soubriquet of Nosy Toby, pawed in the white sand where our boat's prow furrowed the beach along Crows Bluff on the upper St. Johns River until he unearthed the object of his snooping interest—a symmetrically balanced arrow head chipped from a hard white stone completely foreign to Florida.

The delicately serrated edges, still sharp after unknown decades of exposure to the abrasive action of sand, gave evidence that this was a huntsman's point, not a ceremonial head.

What huntsman? What tribe? From whence? What target—human or animal? How long ago?

Our curiosity was aroused; not only over the arrow head and its origin, but over the history and the character of this land that lay unpopulated for many miles downstream, over the abandoned townsite whose remnants still were discernible, and over names on the navigation map that charted these waters—"Get Out Creek," "Revolving Bend," "Dead Man's Point."

We all have various reasons for boating, and these differ from time to time. For some, it's the sheer love of being on the water; for others, it's a means to an end in a kindred recreation—fishing or skiing or hunting. It can be a bit of a key to adventure, a stimulus to daydreaming, or a means of furtherance of such hobbies as bird-watching, photography, sketching... and history.

The trial of Nosy Toby's arrow head led us back into the Eighteenth Century. It also took us into some little known and sparsely traveled—but beautifully scenic and intriguing—present-day waters. It brought interesting experiences. Among the latter was a monstrous bob-cat that poked its head up over one side of a shell mound as I stepped out of a

boat on the other for a virtual face-to-face meeting. At least, I thought it was of monstrous size! What the 'cat thought I didn't ascertain; we went our separate ways.

At the southeastern corner of Ocala National Forest is a long and narrow sliver of land wedged between the federally-administered forest and the St. Johns River. This is the Domingo Fernandez Grant, a 5,000-acre tract with some 10 miles of river frontage dating back to 1817 when Fernandez—an aging Spanish ex-gunboat captain who had been instrumental in protecting Amelia Island from the British and Americans and for whom the town of Fernandina was named—petitioned for the property in the desire to retire thereto, "feeling his age cannot endure the continuous struggles of Amelia Island, he begs to be permitted to settle on the St. Johns River..."

History is not clear as to precisely where Fernandez established his home; nor the period of his tenure. Sometime, either in prior or succeeding years, there came into existence a settlement known as "St. Francis," on the Fernandez Grant at a point where a slough or bayou (listed on present-day maps as the St. Francis Dead River) intersected St. Johns.

St. Francis is a "lost town" so far as textual Florida history is concerned. Nobody seems to know when it was founded, or what it was originally. It is referred to, cryptically, as "an old Spanish settlement," and a "Spanish outpost" with the implication that it served as a frontier fort. The P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History at Gainesville, considered the top-level reference source, sheds no light on the subject.

Irregardless of its role in Spanish Florida, however, the fact is indis-

putable that there was a community in existence up to somewhere around the 1890s. It once had a postoffice, a packing house, a hotel and steamboat docks. On this, too, textual historical references are silent. The only evidence the town existed lies in a single mention that "... after 1880, the postoffice was discontinued..." plus the rotting pilings of the erstwhile docks, an upturned benchmark and a name on the Coast Guard navigation map.

By land, it's inaccessible; by boat, you may visit it by a four-mile trip downstream on the St. Johns from the Highway 44 bridge near Deland.

Before reaching there, you'll pass Revolving Bend, whose figure-8 twist is still detectable although the tortuous turns that sent steamboat pilots spinning into a dizzy dither have long since been circumvented by a government navigation cut which runs unromantically in a straight line. And, below the "lost town," is Dead Man's Point, which local oldsters will tell you is so-called because of a raftsmen lost overboard there.

About three miles farther north, on the St. Johns, there's a sparkling clearwater stream with the entrancing name of "Get Out Creek." Seems that this was one-time moonshining country. Intruders were greeted by a taxiturn shotgun-toter whose vocabulary consisted of two words: "Get Out!"

Get Out Creek today is navigable only for about a quarter mile. Hyacinth stands in solid blockade above that distance.

Beneath the hyacinth, however, the stream is several miles in length. Inland, its source is a small bay off the lower end of Alexander Springs, Creek — Alexander Creek flows roughly northeast and Get Out Creek southeasterly, the two emptying into the St. Johns about three

miles apart. The isolated triangular area in between — of about 1500 acres—is Kimball Island; a now uninhabited mixture of cypress swamp, small lakes, and upland hammock and shell mounds. At one time, it was the site of a thriving citrus grove and a farm settlement, and had channel connection to a steamboat landing on the St. Johns. Today only a foundation and few struggling fruit trees survive. It has returned to wilderness; a natural game area inaccessible in the interior except by canoe or other light and shallow-draft craft that can navigate the spring-fed streams and marshy lakes that protect its approaches.

For diversified boating purposes—for a family outing, for example—the St. Johns River in this region is rather ideal. It's narrow enough to be protected by its tree-lined banks from discomfiting high wind-ruffled waves; but broad enough for water skiing and uncongested cruising. Deep and broad sloughs—onetime river channels left winding amidst the cypress forest by the straight-line navigation cuts—provide secluded haven for fishermen, campers and picnic parties. Bonnets, 'gator grass and spot stands of hyacinth in both sloughs and main channel offer inviting fishing waters, and several small lakes are accessible from one side or the other of the river. If you choose to fish these waters, take a tip: consult the local anglers on what lures, how to fish 'em and where. The fish are there, but they don't necessarily respond to the tactics you're accustomed to — at least, they didn't for me.

If you've a good eye for "reading water," a light and maneuverable small boat such as a canoe or small johnboat, with low-horsepower engine, and a fast arm to tilt its lower unit away from submerged logs, you can penetrate some six miles up Alexander Springs Creek — and a rewarding six-mile trip it is. You'll see fish; multitudes of 'em. Bass and bream, big ones. They can, of course see you — successful angling requires stalking, making use of the



The St. Johns is ideal for diversified boating activities. It's narrow enough to be protected by tree-lined banks, and broad enough for family boating and water skiing.

bends and brush for concealment. It's no water for a runabout; it is clear and clean and swift and narrow and as crooked as the proverbial corkscrew. If you can boost your craft over or around blockading logs, you may penetrate farther than the six-mile limit we reached.

This sector along the middle and lower reaches of Alexander Springs Creek, where the lands of the historic Fernandez Grant and of Ocala National Forest have a common boundary, is one of the least known, wildest and most inaccessible of the Big Scrub region that gave birth to Ocala Forest and to "The Yearling" and other books of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. While other developments have dotted the perimeter of the 360,000-acre Ocala Forest, this particular sector has remained almost unchanged since the war-weary Spanish hero won title to it more than a century and a half ago. If anything, it has actually receded in terms of human exploitation in the past 50 years — the community of St. Francis has vanished, the timber-strippers have long since come and gone and the forested lands have

re-established themselves, the shotgun-toters no longer patrol Get Out Creek, and water-isolated Kimball Island's citrus plantation has been reclaimed by wilderness.

Like many other bypassed and still primitive locales, however, this region — now known as "River Forest" and encompassing the original Fernandez Grant — and the adjacent areas of the Ocala National Forest are being brought up to a crossroads of development to meet the advancing recreational and housing requirements of an expanding and outdoor-minded population.

The U.S. Forest Service is presently drafting a long-range program for the development of the scenic middle and lower reaches of Alexander Springs Creek and of Kimball Island. There has been talk of declaring it a wilderness area, particularly in the Kimball Island region, and most local folk are in favor of this.

The privately-held River Forest (Fernandez) tract comprises most of the river frontage between Alexander Springs Creek and the Highway 44 bridge at DeLand, including several hundred acres on Kimball Island. The owners have offered to leave both their Kimball Island acreage and a protective strip south of Get Out Creek in a natural wilderness state for correlation with Forest Service planning. The remainder is being developed for residential, vacation-cottage and recreational purposes — but, fortunately, in an ambitious and somewhat unusual concept designed to protect the outdoor atmosphere. Building site access channels and roads are being curved to avoid destruction of trees; where land filling is required, the trees are "cupped" and seeded around the lower trunks to prevent loss; and the assistance of state and federal conservation agencies has been solicited in the development of wildlife habitat parks within the tract, in the maintenance and establishment of shrubs and grasses to provide feed and shelter for small

(Continued on page 38)

DOG CHATTER



BY
GEORGE
CROWLEY

DO YOU NEED HELP IN naming your dog—or building a dog house? Are you puzzled about what breed to select? Do you need guidance on where to stay when traveling with a dog? Do you want to know about the nearest training school?

About 50,000 such problems and more were sent to the Gaines Dog Research Center in New York last year. It answered them all, mostly with printed matter, often with individual replies.

Because the organization had just completed fifteen years of solving dog-owner's problems, John Rendel, writer for the New York Times, paid a visit to the Center to interview its director, Harry Miller.

During the interview, Miller, who has been with the Center since its beginning, said that the organization was supported entirely by the strong arm of commerce as represented by General Foods. Sometimes grateful people send contributions, but they are returned.

According to Rendel, the Center appears to be an early example of the "soft sell" method. While it doesn't discourage the purchase of Gaines products, nowhere in its booklets and pamphlets does it urge their use. The "Research" part of the name applies mostly to library research.

Besides answering questions, the Research Center has all sorts of dog-related projects, one of them an annual photography contest. One year it looked into the longevity of dogs on a national basis.

In his report on longevity Miller stated: "It may sound mawkish, but we found that the dogs that lived longest were those that got most love." The oldest was one in North Carolina that was certified to be 26 years old. He was a mongrel who had lost most of his hair and hardly stirred when anyone approached.

But when the owner appeared he managed to wag his tail. He lived another six months.

In that survey the Center sought dogs that were 17 years old or older on the theory that 17 years equalled 100 in a human being. Five hundred persons were questioned and 200 replied. Of all dogs, 59.6 per cent were of mixed breeding, 38.1 per cent pure-bred and 2.3 per cent unknown. Most were small with fox terriers leading, cocker spaniels next and then dachshunds.

The mail to the Center ranges the field. For example, some want to know what to do about dogs that bark too much, some complain their dogs do not bark enough.

"One woman arrived at the Center with a violin accompanist. She ordered her dog to sing—and he did, too.

Oddities arrive also. One was from a veterinarian whose client had telephoned about a sick dog. "I asked her to describe the symptoms" wrote the vet. "'Wait a minute,' said the woman. Then I heard her say, 'Come Butch, cough for the doctor.' There was a distinct cough over the phone. 'Now, what is wrong with my dog'?"

The booklets distributed by the Center have been found the best way to answer most questions. Only

a few, like "Touring with Towser," carry a few cents handling and mailing charge. It's a national directory of hostelrys that accept dogs.

This compact, 48-page directory lists over 6,000 hotels and motels throughout the country which accept guests with pets. In addition, "Touring with Towser" offers suggestions on what to take along for your dog, lists regulations in state and national parks, requirements for entering Canada and Mexico as well as particular states, and other useful information. Suggestions for dog and dog-owner etiquette are also included.

The booklet may be obtained by sending 25 cents in coin or stamps (to cover first-class postage and handling) to the Gaines Dog Research Center, 250 Park Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

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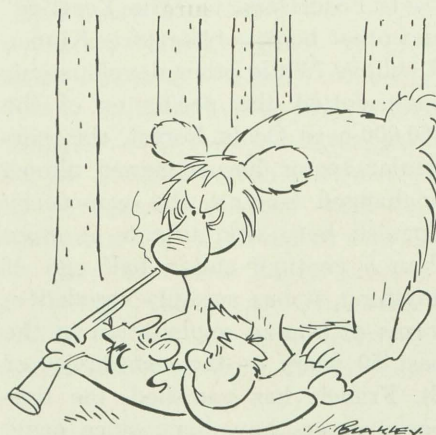
After a one-year absence, Taucha, a German shepherd has returned home. He is the pet of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tiller and their three sons, Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Taucha was believed dead after he leaped at a bird and went over a retaining wall into Niagara Gorge, a drop of 90 feet.

The dog showed up at the Tiller home, limping, and with a thick coat of fur. A veterinarian confirmed Taucha's identity. The dog was seen wandering in the gorge last summer by a caretaker. The Tiller's are now wondering how the dog ever found his way home.

* * *

Police dogged the trail of a milk thief but lost it after the tracks disappeared in a field. Mrs. Dorothy Klendworth, Wilton Manors, Florida, reported that her milkman had left milk and only moments later the half-gallon carton was gone. She said she last saw it being carried in the jaws of a large brown boxer dog



"Missed!"

that had grabbed it off her doorstep. The dog was last seen crashing through the dense brush in a nearby field.

* * *

Dog Club Activities

Members of the Martin County Dog Club are to be congratulated for their recent victories in various meets throughout Florida. Three entrants from the Club distinguished themselves at the Platinum Coast Dog Fancier's Show at Eau Gallie in May.

A. M. Riley's eight-month old doberman puppy, "Jetta," took first place in the doberman puppy class, and also finished first in the working group, defeating the best of nine other breeds, and scoring 177½ points out of a possible 200 points in obedience trials.

Riley's miniature poodle, "Jolly," took third place in the standard and miniature division, and Truman and Virginia Bright's toy poodle, "Buttons," took first place in the toy poodle class.

Early in June, the club was well represented at the Tampa Bay Ken-

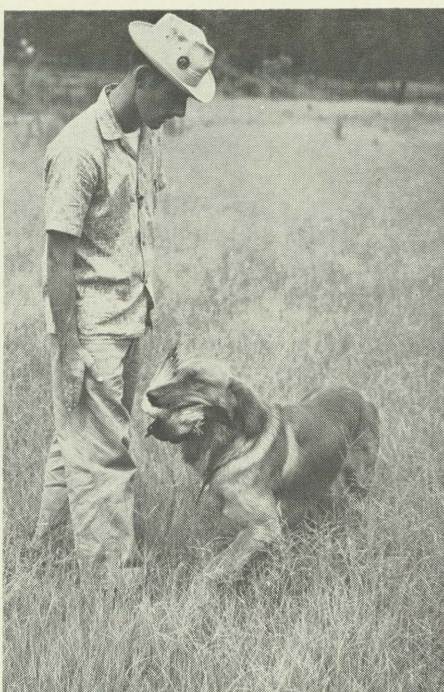


Photo By Jim Floyd

Good dogs are not just born, they are made. Scott Munroe, Tallahassee, trains his golden retriever "Prince of Lakeshore" for coming dove season, and autumn field trials to be held by North Florida Amateur Retriever Club.

nel Club Show, and the St. Petersburg Dog Fancier's Show.

At the Tampa Show, Truman and

Virginia Bright's toy poodle, "Buttons," won the first prize in the novice breed classification; A. M. Riley's doberman, "Jetta," took second prize in the puppy class; Betty McBain's Irish setter, "Cyndey," completed qualifications for champion classification; and Gloria Karlow's German shepherd, "Bretta," qualified in the obedience trials.

The following day at the St. Petersburg Show, "Buttons" was the first in the novice class again, and was the reserve winners dog, while "Jetta" took a third in the doberman puppy class.

A. M. Riley is president of the Martin County Dog Club, and Elton Schwarz is director and general counsel.

* * *

Editor's Note: We would like to have the names of all Dog Clubs in the state, also the names of its officers and directors, and be placed on their mailing list to receive releases pertaining to their activities. Please forward this information to; George H. Crowley, 821 S.W. 25th Street, Fort Lauderdale. ●

TROLLING TACTICS

(Continued from page 29)

Not all anglers use the same tactics to land a fish hooked by trolling. Some keep the boat moving to insure a tight line. Others even speed up. For me, I like to stop the boat and fight it out, not handicapping the bass by the forward motion of the boat. The fish has a better chance to display some spunk.

Always remember that trolling success is often based on odd-ball approaches.

For example, there's a Central Florida angler who, especially in the spring and summer time, troll with a surface lure. Worked well behind the boat, this way-out method accounts for a modest share of fish. Another specialist blithely sails through sparse weeds, dragging one of the more popular weedless lures behind him. His livewell is always occupied.

But one of the most unusual trolling approaches is one called "dragging." This is for those who don't like boats, who get seasick, or who only have a few minutes to spare. And naturally, for anyone who likes to catch fish.

Draggers take a plastic worm or eel, weight it with a split shot (if fish are near the top, they leave it off), drop it over the side of a pier or breakwater—and start walking, slowly trolling the lure next to the

pilings, inches from the bottom. When the gentle nudge is felt, the line is released, the fish allowed to run, and then brought up short. If all goes well, it ends on the stringer.

Mr. G. M. Hartman, a dragger, works off the T-dock in Eustis, averaging just about five bass in half day's fishing. His best-to-date is a 7½-pounder, but three and four pounders are fairly common. His equipment includes a long-handled net, and, his secret weapon, a bottle of aluminum paint in which he dips the tails of his lures. Having seen him wrestle green beauties from under the shade of the pier, I have long ceased to laugh at his silver-tailed offerings.

Long bridges, such as the Howey Bridge across Little Lake Harris are a draggers delight, offering both bass and exercise.

Ignore it as you will, but just remember that there's a time and a place for everything, and frequently, in fishing, it's trolling. ●



"He's been like that ever since we came back from fishing in Florida."

FISHING

(Continued from Page 7)

(not a Floridian) told me that he does very little work but makes a fair living.

"I ask for a third down when they bring the job to me," he said. "I skin it and lay it back. Then, I don't do anything until they get after me again. Usually I put them off a couple of times and after a few years they're inclined to forget the whole thing and I keep the money."

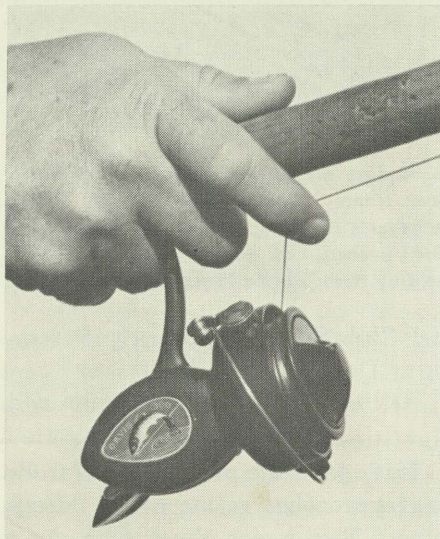
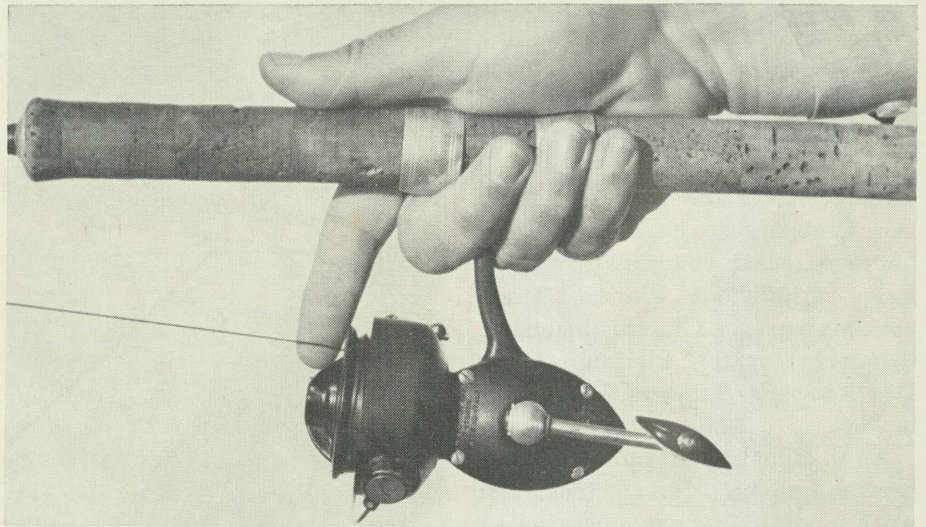
Of course he's an exception—but what an exception! I guess there's nothing really illegal about his racket.

Two Ways For Spinning

There are two accepted ways of using your finger on an open-face spinning reel. One is to pick up the line with the forefinger, releasing it as the cast is made. The other method is simply to hold the line "against the edge of the spool." Both methods have their exponents but most of those who exhibit extreme accuracy use the latter method. I'm awkward with the against-the-spool method because I learned the other way first. There are some spinning reels that wind the line on counter-clockwise, thus making it nearly impossible to employ the against-the-spool method.

Almost all good spin-casters control the force of their cast by fingering the line as it pays off the spool. If this device is used, it seems it shouldn't make too much difference how the cast started.

The most accurate spinning I've ever seen was accomplished with the type of closed-face reel that hangs behind the hand on the rod. It seems at present that this type of reel is being largely superseded by the kind used above the rod and thumbed. Admittedly, the latter type is less accurate. So far, I've never seen a spin-cast reel that could be "feathered" smoothly with the thumb. It seems to me that the brake is either on or off. The accurate caster should figure not only the direction of his cast but also the exact force with which it should be thrown instead of

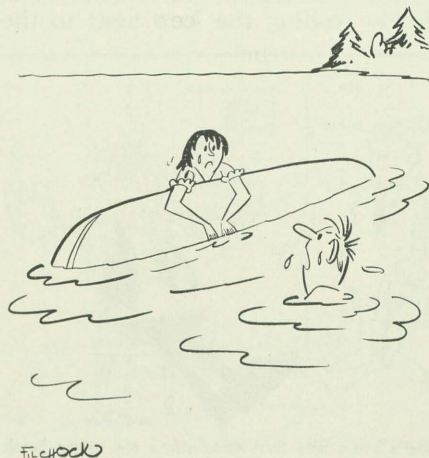


Here are two ways of fingering an open-faced spinning reel. Many spin-fishermen pick up the line with forefinger in preparing to cast. Some of the accuracy experts say they'd have better success if they simply held the line against the spool until ready to let go.

second-guessing with his thumb as the user of conventional baitcasting reels does.

Heads Up!

Many a big fish has been lost when it was ready for the net or gaff and we might go into all details



"Well, do you want to change seats again?"

of the landing operation at another time but there is one phase of the business I want to stress right now.

After the wild-eyed part of a big-fish fight is over, there generally remains a longer period of pumping and heaving in an effort at getting the prize up to the boat or bank. The old piece of advice about keeping his head up is sensible for some reasons most of us don't go into.

A fish can exert a lot of power going forward and he can dig for the bottom for a while—but he is poorly equipped to combat a lifting pressure. If you pull his head up, it is a great effort for him to get it down again as he tires. He is off balance and you have him coming your way. I once got the idea that I could whip a fish better by keeping away from him and simply curbing his runs. I see now that I let a lot of them escape that way. Once he begins to tire, get over him and keep pulling up. If you are using a boat there are added hazards of your fish getting underneath but these are usually more than offset by the advantage you have gained in your straight-up lifting—after the fish is tired. Usually, the more he tires, the more pressure you can apply. That's routine advice. ●

FRESH WATER BRAWLER

(Continued from Page 21)

experimented with electrical shocking boats reports mudfish probably reach weights of 20-pounds. Seventeen-pounders have been retrieved by shocking crews, and the fishery people are certain that's not the top weight. But a six-pounder—what a fight!—has been the biggest I've landed to date, but you never know.

The bowfin - mudfish - dogfish or whatever you want to call him is an interesting member of the piscatorial family, although most anglers know little about him. He's found over a wide terrain from Canada to Florida, and the Gulf Coast states. He's also encountered west of the Appalachians to the Mississippi Valley and in the Carolinas. And any place he's a fightin' fool.

He's the lone remaining member of a prehistoric family and is easily identified by an overall olive brown color with a light to muddy brown belly. His flat head is vicious looking, and his elongated dorsal fin covers two-thirds of his body starting with his blunt tail.

He'll live in waters—actually in mud—where other game fish can't survive. One day deep in the Fakahatchee swamp in southwest Florida Cal Stone and I photographed a mudfish marooned in a mudhole—all that remained of a small pond. He'd become trapped by the drouth, but he was still alive. A bass or any sports fish would have been dead before the water even reached a low



You want action? These bowfins will often display bass-type antics, and they fight for keeps.

point. But not this throw back from the stone age.

For light tackle anglers who want a real fresh water brawl, here're a few tips about Mr. Bowfin. He'll sock most any artificial, but your chances are best with an underwater lure. How he loves plastic worms! He'll clobber bait—both live and dead—with a vengeance, and if you're seriously table fishing when he arrives, move on, for you'll not catch any eatin' fish with him prowling.

Eight-pound test spinning line is normally sufficient to handle him if

you've got a net. However, it won't do, if you've got to pick him up with grippers, for he goes crazy when you clamp down, and his violent antics—in the water or on the land—will snap your line. Best thing for this situation is to use a 15-pound test leader 15 feet long to take the shock of landing him when you've got him whipped. And play him out! You don't horse in a mudfish, if you want to keep your tackle intact.

And when unhooking watch out! He'll flop around in a boat or on land, and plug hooks can flop dangerously deep into your hand. Too, be careful of his sharp teeth. He can and WILL bite hard. Best means of handling is with a pair of aluminum fish grippers, and use long nose pliers to unhook him. And always watch out! He's mean, and doesn't tire easily.

Bowfin - mudfish - grindle - #\$\$%! may not be the most respected sports fish, BUT pound for pound he'll give you as much or more action as a largemouth bass or some of the other highly rated game fish. And usually he's obliging. Want action? Seek bowfins on light tackle. They don't lack fight—no, siree!

MUZZLE FLASHES

(Continued from Page 9)

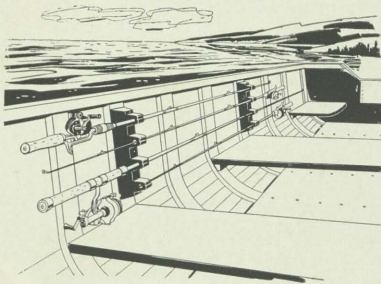
served nationwide by NRA-affiliated shooting clubs just before last hunting season helped many big and small game hunters to better understand their rifles and installed sighting combinations, and thereby later hunt more expertly. The nationwide program can be beneficially repeated this year, tied in with basic Hunter Safety instruction and the attraction of running deer target practice under the guidance of volunteer,

NRA-trained and certified marksmanship instructors.

There is still time for organized shooting clubs in Florida, and elsewhere, to obtain the NRA's pamphlet-printing of different types of running deer target mechanisms, and construct the one most logical in respect to group finances and range facilities.

Practice shooting at a running deer target is a lot of fun, and may easily be your start towards bagging a big buck next hunting season. ●

TESTS^{AND} TELLS



Abuse in one form or another — not hard fishing — is generally the reason why many good fishing rods break. Even the best of rods cannot long endure being stepped on, or the abrasion and shock of repeatedly being knocked about.

Usually when fishing from a boat, an angler takes along several rods or keeps several outfits aboard. No matter where placed, sooner or later they get knocked down, jostled or jumbled, when they are not racked.

To prevent rod damage, as well as keeping rigged tackle tidy, FWFT&T likes the Pflueger Rod Hold-R's made of resilient vinyl.

The product consists of two separate brackets as a working team, slotted to accept four fishing rods, space them evenly and support them at logical points near tip and butt ends. Rods alone or assembled rod and reel outfits can be racked singly or in combination.

Used in recreation room, basement or garage, the Pflueger Rod Hold-R displays rods beautifully while providing out-of-the-way storage.

BOATING

(Continued from page 33)

game, waterfowl and songbirds, and in protection of the wilderness aspects of those perimeter lands which form common boundary with Ocala National Forest. Of interest to boatmen, the project includes a comprehensive small-craft marina layout and "boatel" with docking and service facilities.

In addition, there will be an education program on conservation practices for the buyers of home and cottage sites, for application on their land.

Each pair of Rod Hold-R's carries a price tag of \$4.95, and comes with screws for mounting brackets on wood, and with a special adhesive for installation on fiberglass or aluminum.

Made by The Enterprise Mfg. Company, 110 North Union Street, Akron 9, Ohio; stocked by fishing tackle and marine supply stores.



The L. L. Bean-made tackle bag described in **FLORIDA WILDLIFE** has pleased many readers, but there have been numerous requests for magazine report on an available bag of larger size and more diversified use.

FWFT&T feels such a bag has been found in the Sears, Roebuck catalog listing No. 9A65593, price \$7.15.

It is a heavy-weight canvas bag, 20 inches long, made with a canvas covered top-section reinforced metal frame and fitted with double style leather handles for comfortable carrying and long service.

Bottom is of hard construction, canvas covered, and has eight metal lugs to keep it from contact with wet surfaces on which it might be placed.

The intent, of course, is commercial; to so correlate the development of the area with the natural hunting, fishing, boating and scenic attractions of its St. Johns River and Ocala Forest frontage as to appeal to sportsmen and family with an outdoor interest. This type of approach makes River Forest a significant project — not only because of its location in central Florida's top-level hunting and fishing country, but also for its philosophy of preservation of outdoor values. The steps being taken to protect and preserve woodlands and wildlife habitat should receive the acclaim of all out-

Two strap and buckle fasteners permit the bag's top opening to be closed tightly or strapped in partial open-mouth position.

The bag, besides being made of tough, builders' grade canvas, is strongly sewn and riveted.

Originally intended to hold a bricklayer's tools, the bag is ideal for carrying fishing tackle and other miscellaneous gear.

It is not too large for easy carrying, yet it will hold just about all the personal items you will want to take on a fishing, boating, picnic, overnight camping or hunting trip.

It should also prove ideal as an in-the-woods carryall bag for archers and gun hunters operating from either ground level or from a tree "stand." For such use, the white canvas exterior should be daubed with blotches of green, brown and black paint, to create a camouflage effect.

The Sears' product has only a single inside pocket compartment to divide its roomy interior, but exterior or inside pockets can easily be added by using small pieces of matching, heavy-duty builders' canvas, fastened to the bag with rivets, adhesives or both. For example, a pouch type, flap closing compartment might be added to each exterior side of the bag, to hold small articles.

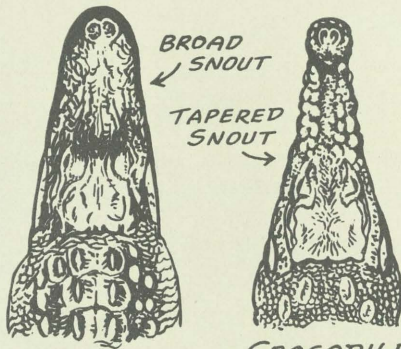
Besides ordering by catalog number, you can be sure you are getting the right article by looking on the bottom of the bag for the imprinted words "Made for Sears, Roebuck & Company, No. 65593 - Size 20 Inches."

doorsmen. It's a refreshing difference from the common practice of bulldozing the land barren of trees and draining swamps.

Well . . . Nosy Toby's arrow head has taken us a long way; into some beautiful stream country, some good cruising, skiing, fishing and exploration waters, and into the past, present and future of a mighty attractive part of Florida. For the trailer-borne boatman, it's accessible from a state wayside launching ramp and park area at the east approach of the State Route 44 bridge over the St. Johns River, five miles west of Deland.

FLORIDA

Know Your FLORIDA Wildlife



ALLIGATOR

CROCODILE

PROTECTED BY
LAW • MEMBER
OF THE REPTILE
FAMILY

AVERAGE LENGTH 7 TO 12 FT.
RECORD 23 FT. IN SOUTH
AMERICA •
15 FT. IN
FLORIDA

NOW RARE IN
THE UNITED STATES, THE
CROCODILE

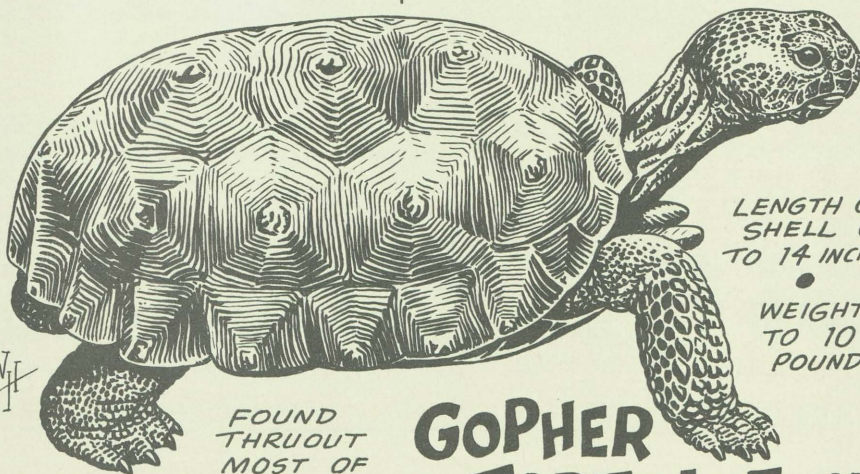
IS FOUND IN THE
SALTY WATERS OF
EXTREME SOUTHERN
FLORIDA

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

Know Your FLORIDA Wildlife

EATS GRASS, LEAVES
AND WILD FRUIT • IN
TURN IT IS CONSIDERED
VERY GOOD TO EAT

DIGS UNDERGROUND TUNNELS
FROM 10 TO 35 FEET LONG
WITH A SMALL ROOM AT THE
END • RACCOONS, BURROWING
OWLS, OPOSSUMS, INDIGO
SNAKES AND RATTLESNAKES
OFTEN USE THE GOPHER'S
BURROW • THE UPPER SHELL
OF THE TURTLE IS CALLED THE
CARAPACE, THE LOWER SHELL—
THE PLASTRON



LENGTH OF
SHELL 6
TO 14 INCHES

WEIGHT
TO 10
POUNDS

FOUND
THRUOUT
MOST OF
FLORIDA

**GOPHER
TORTOISE** OR
TURTLE

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

WILDLIFE SCRAPBOOK



Dog Days

Photo By Wallace Hughes

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